

10c

QUALITY
COMIC
PUBLICATION

BLACK HAWK

ANC

DEATH IN THE IRON MASK

JANUARY
No. 72





WEB COMIC
UNIVERSE.COM

JUNIOR SPACE PILOTS
ON THE BEAM!

GIVEN!

BOYS! GIRLS!
LADIES!
MEN!

WE GIVE YOU CASH OR PREMIUMS!

MAIL
COUPON

Football,
Pocket
Watches,
etc.

Fishing Outfits
... Flashlights
... 1000 Shot
Daisy Air Rifles

ACT
NOW!

HURRY

WE ARE RELIABLE!

Cameras, Corn Poppers, Speedball
Cartoon Sets, Aluminum Ware,
Blankets (sent postage paid). Mail
coupon for SALVE
and pictures to
start.

ACT
NOW

BE
FIRST

LET'S
GO!

LOOK!

ACT
NOW!

ACT NOW

Ukeleles,
Watches,
Lovable
Dolls.

Radios,
Candid Cameras with carry-
ing cases, Telescopes, Roller
Skates (sent postage paid)
... Mail coupon to start.

Food Chop-
pers, Carving
Sets, Bibles,
Mail coupon.

Football, Tele-
scopes (sent postage
paid). Boys', Girls' Bi-
cycles (express
chgs. collect).

I'M IN A HURRY TO GET
BACK TO OUR EARTH BASE,
PENNY, THE MAIL MAN'S BRING-
ING MY NEW CAMERA!

JUMPIN'
JUPITER!
YOU'RE SURE
SIZZLING TH'
OL' ROCKET
TODAY, TED!

I'VE EARNED A SWELL RADIO
AND A TELESCOPE TOO!
IT'S EASY SELLING TO
YOUR FRIENDS - AND YOU
GIVE 'EM THESE SWELL ART
PICTURES -

THAT'S
FOR ME!

SAY! THAT CAMERA
SURE IS SUPERSONIC!
YOU MUST HAVE
STRUCK A
URANIUM LODE!

DIDN'T COST
ME A DIME -
JUST GOT IT FOR
SELLING WHITE
CLOVERINE
BRAND
SALVE!

HURRY!
AN' GET
DE-PRES-
SURIZED!

OUTTA MY JET TRAIL, MATES - I'M MAILING
THE COUPON FOR THAT BIG NEW
PREMIUM CATALOG NOW!



LET'S
GO!

OUR 58th YEAR

Alarm Clocks,
Pen & Pencil
Sets, etc.
Mail
coupon.

MAIL COUPON!
GET BIG CATALOG!

Candid Cameras with carrying case,
Telescopes, Watches (sent postage
paid). SIMPLY GIVE pictures with
White CLOVERINE Brand SALVE
easily sold to friends, neigh-
bors, relatives at 35c a box
(with picture). Alarm Clocks, Pen
& Pencil Sets, Bibles, Billfolds, Tele-
scopes, Roller Skates, Blankets, Aluminum Ware,
Record Players, Movie Machines
(postage pd.). Rush cou-
pon to start!

LET'S
GO!

Guaranteed by
Good Housekeeping
as NOT AN ADVERT. "JED" THE DOG

WE TRUST
YOU!

.22 Cal.
Rifles, Arch-
ery Sets, School
Boxes, Wallets.

Mail coupon for
SALVE and
pictures to
start.

Boys',
Girls' Wrist
Watches,
Baking Sets,
Typewriters,
etc.

Lucite
Dresser
Sets, Cook
Books, etc.

ACT NOW!

WE
TRUST YOU!

MAIL NOW!

Wilson Chemical Co., Dept. 108, Tyrone, Pa. Date _____
Gentlemen:- Please send me on trial 14 colorful art pic-
tures with 14 boxes of White CLOVERINE Brand SALVE to
sell at 35c a box (with picture). I will remit amount asked
within 30 days, select a Premium or keep Cash Commis-
sion as explained under Premium wanted in catalog sent
with order, postage paid to start.

NAME _____ AGE _____
ST. _____ R. D. _____ BOX _____
TOWN _____ ZONE NO. _____ STATE _____

PRINT LAST NAME HERE _____

Paste coupon on postal card or mail in envelope today

OUR 58th YEAR - WE ARE RELIABLE! MAIL

BLACKHAWK



IT WAS UTTERLY FANTASTIC! HIGH ABOVE THE EARTH DWELT THE ANCESTORS OF AN ANCIENT WARRING TRIBE WHOSE EVIL KING WAS PLOTTING A CENTURIES-OLD REVENGE! AND WHEN THE MIGHTY BLACKHAWKS INVADED THIS KINGDOM IN THE SKY THEY FOUND THAT THERE WAS NO ESCAPE! FOR THOUSANDS OF RUTHLESS TRIBESMEN STOOD IN THEIR PATH AND TIME WAS RUNNING OUT ON BLACKHAWK AS HE FACED...

DEATH IN THE IRON MASK

HIGH IN THE SWISS MOUNTAINS AN EXPEDITION MAKES ITS WAY UP THE TREACHEROUS SLOPES OF FEARED MT. MERCILESS!

EXPEDITION ICICLE TO U. W. HEADQUARTERS-- WE HAVE SURMOUNTED TWIN LEDGE SAFELY-- WE ARE APPROACHING DEATH FACE OVERHANG...



AS THE DAUNTLESS CLIMBERS MOVE UPWARD THEIR TENSE REPORT IS CARRIED THROUGH THE AIR WAVES...

WE ARE HAVING DIFFICULTY... OUR ICE CLEATS KEEP SLIPPING AWAY FROM THE ICE!



AND AT BERNE, SWITZERLAND A GIANT MONITOR STATION BEAMS THE VITAL MESSAGE TO AMERICA...

ICE, ROCKS AND DIRT ARE FALLING ABOUT US...

THEY ARE BRAVE MEN... BUT NONE HAVE EVER CONQUERED MT. MERCILESS! INCREASE THE POWER TO THE AMERICAS!

A PITY... BUT THEY ALSO APPEAR DOOMED!



WHILE THREE THOUSAND MILES AWAY AT UNITED WORLD HEAD-QUARTERS THE WORLD RENOWN BLACKHAWKS LISTEN TENSELY...

WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO CONNECT A NEW LINE...

SACRE BLEU! THEY ARE MEN OF COURAGE!

YES, ANDRE! BUT MT. MERCILESS IS AN UNBEATEN ADVERSARY!



THE LINE APPEARS TO BE HOLDING!...

OH-H, WOBBLY WOES! CHOP CHOP CHOP KEEP FINGERS CROSSED!

WE ALL WILL, CHOP CHOP!

THUNDER-ATION! PERHAPS THE WORST IS OVER!



BUT SPLIT SECONDS LATER, UNSEEN BY THE LISTENERS...

G-GREAT SCOTT! I-IT CAN'T BE TRUE!



THEN...

AIEEEEEEE...



BLACKHAWK



BLACKHAWK



Y-YOU'RE DOING GREAT, GANG! LET'S MAKE TIME WHILE THE WEATHER FAVORS US!

OUI, BLACKHAWK!

BUT THEN, THE BLACKHAWKS COME TO AN ABRUPT HALT AS...

GREAT SCOTT! A WARNING OF SOME SORT!

CLAZY WORDS!

DASS ISS IMPOSSIBLE! HOW CAN DERE BE SUCH A VARNING VEN NOBODY HASS EVER BEEN HERE?

ABANDON HOPE ALL YE WHO PASS HERE!

HM-M...IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK AS IF IT WASN'T JUST THE MOUNTAINS THAT BROUGHT AN END TO THOSE OTHER ILL-FATED EXPEDITIONS! WE'D BETTER KEEP ON THE ALERT FROM HERE ON UP!

OH, GOLLIES! BLACK-HAWK EXPECT FOUL PLAY!



B-BLACKHAWK! LOOK OUT!

AS THE BLACKHAWKS CAUTIOUSLY WORK THEIR WAY UPWARD THE THIN AIR IS SUDDENLY ALIVE WITH A FEARFUL SHRIEKING SOUND...



HUZZZARRRR!

ACH DU LIEBER!

PY YIMINY! LIVING CREATURES FROM DER MOUNTAIN TOP!

YES... AND THAT SOUNDS LIKE THEIR WAR CHANT! LET'S JOIN IN ON THE CHORUS, GANG!



DOWN WITH THE INVADERS FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD!

HOP SCOTCH TICKLISH GAME WHEN PLAYED WITH SHARP SWORD!

HAWKAAAAA



THE "AUDIENCE" IS ABRUPTLY INTERRUPTED WHEN...

HE SOUGHT TO ESCAPE TO MODERN CIVILIZATION, OH, KING MERCILESS!

SO BE IT! READY THE CATAPULT PENALTY! HE WILL JOIN THE MODERN WORLD--FOREVER!



THE BLACKHAWKS STARE IN STUNNED HORROR AS THE PRISONER IS DRAGGED TO THE GREAT CATAPULT...

PLEASE... MERCY! DO NOT LET ME DIE BY THE CATAPULT!

MON AMI! ZEE SWINE PLAN ZEE CRUEL DEATH!

I-IT'S UNBELIEVABLE!



THEN, AS THE PANIC STRICKEN PRISONER IS PLACED IN THE CATAPULT...

WHAT KIND OF FOUL CIVILIZATION SPAWNED YOU?

HOLD THE OTHERS!



BUT AS BLACKHAWK STRIVES DESPERATELY TO FREE THE MAN...

TOO... LATE!



THEN, AS BLACKHAWK IS BROUGHT BEFORE THE KING FOR HIS "INSOLENCE"...

THEY GAVE YOU THE RIGHT NAME, KING **MERCILESS!** BUT SUCH CRUELTY AS YOURS IS FOUGHT BY FREEDOM LOVING PEOPLE THE WORLD OVER!

AYE... AND THAT IS THE REASON MY ANCESTORS WERE DRIVEN TO THIS MOUNTAIN RETREAT! BUT ENOUGH! YOU HAVE DEFIED MY ORDERS--BRING THE DREADED IRON MASK, GUARD!



THE BLACKHAWKS ARE FORCED TO STAND HELPLESSLY BY AS THEIR LEADER IS PLACED IN THE ANCIENT TORTURE CONTRAPTION...

YOUR HOURS ARE NUMBERED, INSOLENT ONE! AS THE BURNING SUN DRIES THE DAMPENED LEATHER IT WILL SLOWLY TIGHTEN ABOUT YOUR THROAT THROTTLING THE VERY LIFE OUT OF YOU!

HO, HO...

IS THERE NO WAY TO PREVENT YOU FROM ZEE HORRIBLE THING?

VELLY, VELLY PLEASE! DO BIG FAVOR AND SAVE BLACKHAWK!



PERHAPS...IF YOU SUCCESSFULLY MEET ALL THE TESTS AGAINST MY WARRIORS BEFORE TIME RUNS OUT ON YOUR LEADER, I WILL THEN RELEASE HIM FROM THE MASK AND GIVE YOU ALL YOUR LIVES! AGREED?

MON AMI...WE MUST AGREE! BLACKHAWK WILL SURELY BE FINISHED IF WE DO NOT!

YAH! AGREED!





ZE KING IS TRULY CRAZY, BLACKHAWK! CIVILIZATION'S ATOM BOMBS AND MODERN WEAPONS WOULD WIPE OUT HIS ARMY POOF!

RIGHT, ANDRE! BUT HIS HORDES WOULD SWEEP DOWN TO DESTROY HUNDREDS, PERHAPS THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE FIRST! WE MUST MAKE HIM BELIEVE MODERN MAN IS INVINCIBLE! FRIGHTEN HIM OFF!



BETTER WE TAKE OFF POWERFUL BATTERIES WE CARRY FOR RADAR MACHINE! MUCH HEAVY WHEN FIGHTING!

NO, CHOP CHOP! THEY'LL SERVE AS ARMOR PROTECTION AGAINST THE SWORDS AND MACES OF OUR ATTACKERS! HMM, BUT I THINK I *WILL* USE SOMETHING FROM THE RADAR EQUIPMENT!

BEGIN THE CONTESTS!



THE FIRST ONE-SIDED TEST BEGINS...

OH, GOLLY GEE! MANY WOBBLY WOES THIS TIME!

STEADY, GANG!



SOON THE GREAT ODDS BEGIN TO TELL ON THE BLACKHAWKS...

DER ODDS... TOO GREAT, BLACKHAWK!

HANG ON, HENDRICKSON!



THEN... T-THEY'RE TERRIFIED! BLACKHAWK! WHAT ARE THOSE THINGS?

VACUUM TUBES-- FROM THE RADAR EQUIPMENT, CHUCK!

BANG!

POP!



AND AS THE BLACKHAWKS WIN THE FIRST MATCH...

ZEE IRON MASK! EET IS CHOKING YOU, BLACKHAWK!

I-I CAN LAST! GOT TO GET THROUGH THESE CONTESTS! ONLY WAY OUT!



THEY ARE GREAT WARRIORS AND MAGICIANS, OH, KING!

WEAKLINGS! BRING ON THE TEST OF THE GOLDEN SWORDS!

BLACKHAWK

THE TESTS CONTINUE! DESPERATELY, THE BLACKHAWKS DRAW DEEP ON THEIR DWINDLING RESERVE OF STRENGTH! FINALLY...

CHOP CHOP VELLY MUCH TIRED...BUT POOR BLACKHAWK CHOKE MORE ALLY TIME!

BLACKHAWK!

VE HAVE DEFEATED ALL DER TESTS! YOU MUST KEEP DER BARGAIN UND FREE US!

THERE IS **ONE** TEST YET TO COME, STRANGE ONE! THE BARGAIN WILL BE KEPT! BUT FIRST...

...YOU MUST ATTACK AND CONQUER THE CASTLE GUARD!

VAT? B-BUT DASS ISS IMPOSSIBLE! DERE ARE DOZENS UFF DEM!

THEES EES ZE FINISH, BLACKHAWK! ZEE LEATHER BAND HAS ALMOST CHOKED ZE LIFE FROM YOU ALREADY! EVEN ZE BLACKHAWKS CANNOT WIN THEES TEST!

IT SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE! ALL RIGHT--BUT WE'VE ONE SLIM CHANCE...BY USING THIS WIRE I TOOK FROM THE RADAR EQUIPMENT AND THE BATTERIES FROM OUR BELT RADIOS!

THE UNBELIEVABLE ENCOUNTER BEGINS! HOW CAN THE VALIANT BLACKHAWKS HOPE TO BATTLE SUCH UNSURMOUNTABLE ODDS!

THE FOOLS HAVE COURAGE! BUT ONLY AN ARMY COULD BREAK THROUGH THE ROCK WALLS AND SWORDS THAT GUARD MY CASTLE!

HAWKAAAAA!

BUT SUDDENLY, THE KING AND HIS WARRIORS GAZE IN ASTONISHMENT AS...

QUICK, CHOP CHOP! CUT DOWN DER DRAWBRIDGE!

M-MY MEN! WHAT HAS HAPPENED -- WHAT KIND OF EVIL POWERS DO THESE STRANGERS POSSESS?

BLACKHAWK



ZE DRAWBRIDGE,
CHOP CHOP!
HURRY!

DRAWBRIDGE ALL
CHOP CHOPPED
DOWN, ANDRE!



QUICKLY, THE REMAINING BLACKHAWKS SURGE INTO THE CASTLE...

HOLD ON,
BLACKHAWK! VE HAFF
DER DEVILS ON DER
RUN!

I-IF I DON'T LAST...KEEP
GOING, HENDRICKSON!
YOU'VE GOT TO WIN THIS
ONE TO BE FREE!



A MOMENT AFTERWARD...

GASP!
GASP!
C-CAN'T
MAKE
IT!

SACRE
BLEU!
BLACKHAWK
HE EES
FINISHED...

IS
ALL
RIGHT!
I BAN
FINISH
LAST
ONE NOW!



QUICKLY, THE BLACKHAWKS REMOVE THEIR LEADER'S FEARFUL MASK, AND...

CHOP CHOP
VELLY
HAPPY!
BLACKHAWK
BREATHS
ALIVE!

ACH, KING MERCILESS! VE
HAFF FINISHED DER CON-
TESTS! ALL UFF DEM HAFF
BEEN WON!
SO VE
TAKE OUR
FREEDOM!

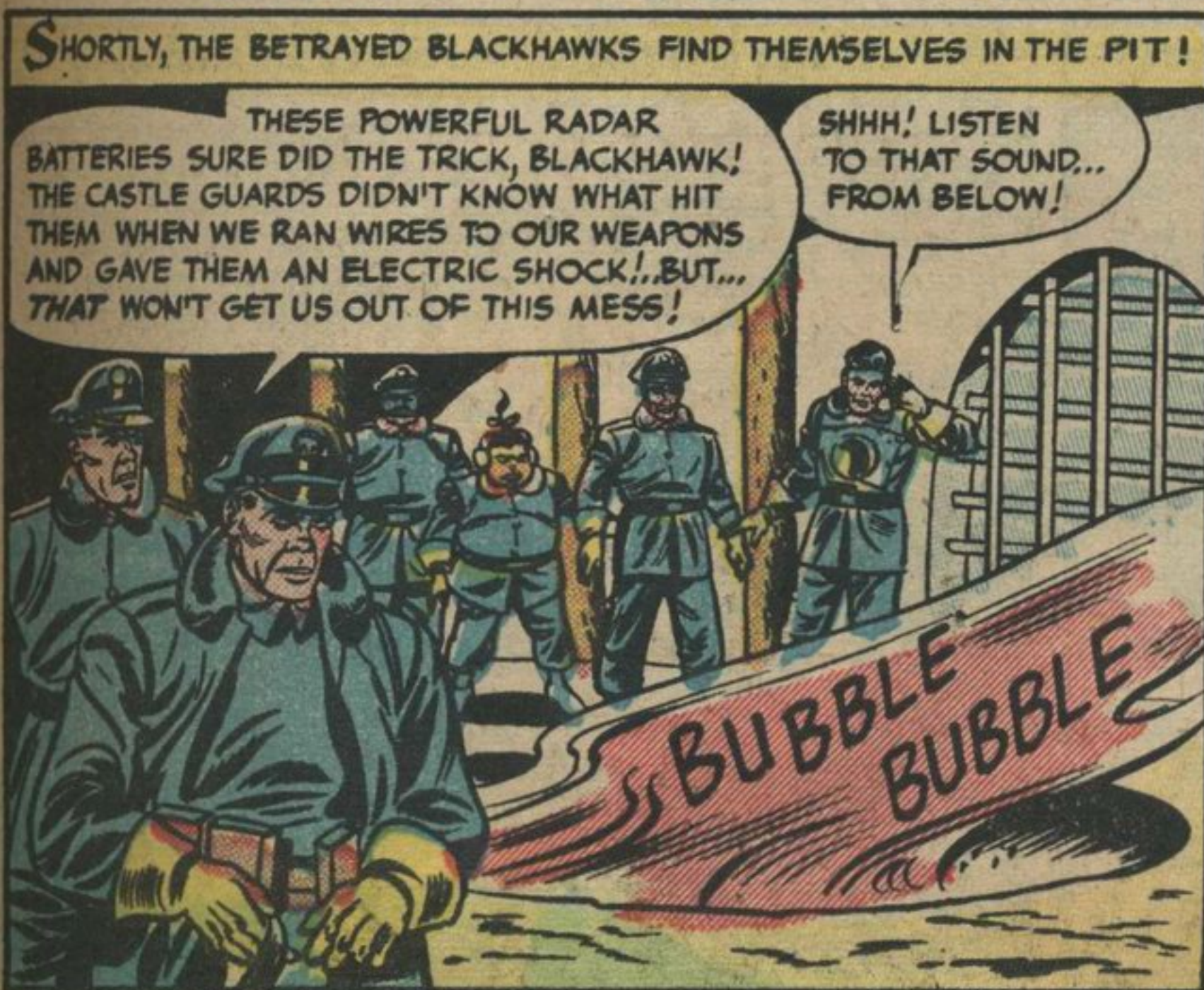
HO! NOT
SO FAST!
I PROMISED
YOU ONLY
YOUR LIVES!



TAKE THEM
TO THE PIT!
THEY SHALL
BE FREE
TO LIVE
THERE
FOREVER!
HA, HA, HA...

SACRE!
ZE
DOUBLE
CROSS!

T-THE
SWINE!



SHORTLY, THE BETRAYED BLACKHAWKS FIND THEMSELVES IN THE PIT!

THESE POWERFUL RADAR
BATTERIES SURE DID THE TRICK, BLACKHAWK!
THE CASTLE GUARDS DIDN'T KNOW WHAT HIT
THEM WHEN WE RAN WIRES TO OUR WEAPONS
AND GAVE THEM AN ELECTRIC SHOCK! BUT...
THAT WON'T GET US OUT OF THIS MESS!

SHHH! LISTEN
TO THAT SOUND...
FROM BELOW!



OH GOLLIES!
CHOP CHOP
MAKE QUICK
TRIP TO
ANCESTORS
IF FALL IN
THERE!
PLENTY FAR...

YES...AND THAT PIT LEADS
RIGHT DOWN TO THE TOP OF A
VOLCANIC MASS WITHIN THE
MOUNTAIN! HEAR THAT LAVA
BUBBLING...IT CAN'T BE
CAPPED BY MUCH ROCK! HMM...
THESE OLD WOODEN BEAMS
ARE ALL THAT PREVENT A
ROCK SLIDE!

WITH THE POWDER FROM THE BULLETS IN OUR RESERVE CARTRIDGE BELTS AND MY WRISTWATCH WE CAN MAKE A TIME BOMB! THE BOMB WOULD BE STRONG ENOUGH TO BLAST ONE OF THESE BEAMS APART AND START A SLIDE...



...WHEN IT FALLS CHANCES ARE THE ROCKS WILL CRASH THROUGH THAT VOLCANO CAP AND SET OFF AN ERUPTION WHICH WILL BLOW THESE CHARACTERS SKY HIGH! UNLESS WE CAN ESCAPE WE WILL DIE IN THE BLAST! ARE YOU GAME?



MUCH BIG GAMBLE THIS ONE-- BUT CHOP CHOP PLAY!

YA! VE ARE MIT YOU, BLACK-HAWK!

SHORTLY, WHEN THE BLACKHAWKS HAVE MADE A SMALL BUT POWERFUL TIME CHARGE...

I'VE SET THE BOMB FOR TWENTY MINUTES-- IF WE DON'T BREAK OUT OF HERE WITHIN THAT TIME WE ARE SUNK!

SOME-ONE EES COMING!



A MOMENT AFTERWARD, A FLYING BLACKHAWK WEDGE HITS A FOOD CARRYING GUARD...

ACH DU LIEBER! VE STILL MUST PUT SPACE BETWEEN US UNDT THIS MOUNTAIN OR DER ERUPTION VILL KILL US ALSO!

I'VE GOT AN IDEA! TO THE CATAPULT--I'LL EXPLAIN LATER!



THE BLACKHAWKS DASH TO THE GREAT CATAPULT AND...

WE'VE MOVED IT TO THE RIGHT DIRECTION! HENDRICKSON! CHUCK! JUMP ON! HURRY!

YAH, BLACKHAWK!



ABRUPTLY, THE BLACKHAWKS PILE UPON THE GIANT CATAPULT! THE RELEASE LEVER IS PULLED...

HEADS UP!

WHEE! HAPPY SOFT LANDING IN NICE SNOW!



AND MINUTES AFTERWARD, THE PEAK OF MT. MERCILESS VANISHES IN A GIGANTIC BLAST...

SO COMES ZEE END OF ZEE TERRIBLE KING!

CHOP CHOP HAPPY HE NEVER GO BACK THERE AGAIN!

WRONG, CHOP CHOP! OUR JOB ISN'T DONE UNTIL WE RETURN WITH NEW RADAR EQUIPMENT AND SET IT UP ON MT. MERCILESS PEAK--OR WHAT'S LEFT OF IT! BUT THIS TIME--THE JOB WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED!



AMF ROADMASTER gives you

extra features...extra fun...extra Merry Christmas!

SAFETY BUMPER BARS
(front and rear)—more protection.

**ELECTRONICALLY
WELDED FRAME**
—safer, stronger.

ELECTRIC HORN
—right in the tank.

SEARCHBEAM HEADLIGHT
—better visibility.

**SHOCKMASTER
COIL-SPRING FORK**
—smoother ride.

ROADOMETER
—exclusive with Roadmaster.
—measures the miles.

Any bike will make Christmas morning a merry morning, but it takes AMF Roadmaster to make it an extra merry Christmas.

Look at all the extras you get!

Like the exclusive mile-measuring Roadometer. Shows you and your friends how far you go. And rugged safety bumper bars!

Other features, too, make AMF Roadmaster best to look at...most to talk about...best to ride!

See AMF Roadmaster complete line at your dealer's and fine stores everywhere.



Roadometer automatically measures and records the miles you ride from 1/10 mile up to 10,000 miles.

Amf products
ARE BETTER...by design
AMERICAN MACHINE & FOUNDRY COMPANY



Send for **FREE** "Bike Hike" booklet!

AMF ROADMASTER
Dept. QC-541 W. 117th Street and Berea Road, Cleveland 7, Ohio

Please send free bike hike booklet with helpful hints on map-reading, bike hike ideas and games, things to take along

NAME _____

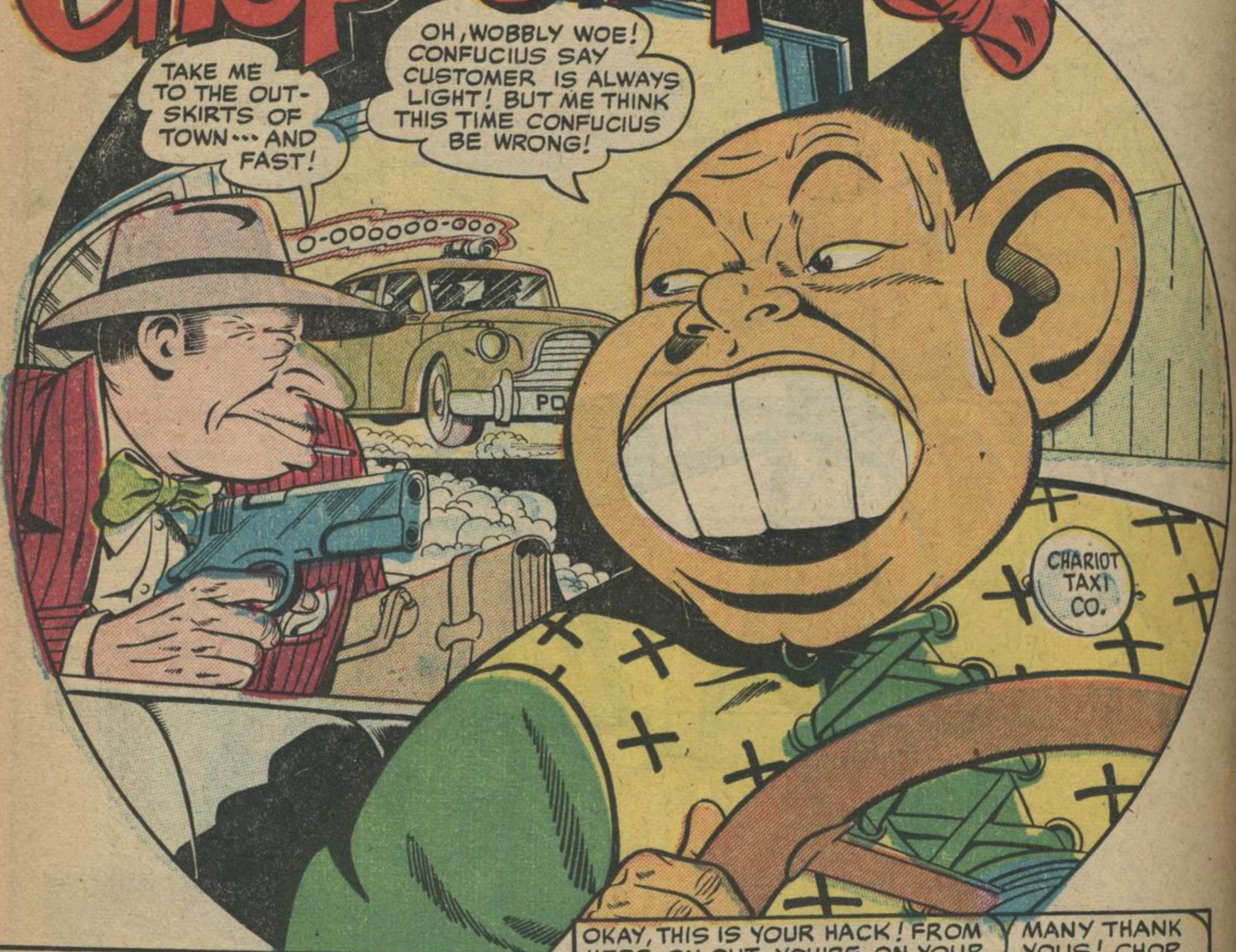
ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZONE _____ STATE _____

NAME OF BICYCLE DEALER _____

HIS ADDRESS _____

Chop Chop



TAKE ME
TO THE OUT-
SKIRTS OF
TOWN... AND
FAST!

OH, WOBBLY WOE!
CONFUCIUS SAY
CUSTOMER IS ALWAYS
LIGHT! BUT ME THINK
THIS TIME CONFUCIUS
BE WRONG!

CHARIOT
TAXI
CO.



YOUR QUALIFICATIONS
ARE IN ORDER!
WHEN DO YOU
WANT TO
START?

OH, HOTSY TOTSY!
ME LEADY TO GO TO
WORK LIGHT
NOW!

CHARIOT
TAXI
CO.



OKAY, THIS IS YOUR HACK! FROM
HERE ON OUT, YOU'RE ON YOUR
OWN!

MANY THANK
YOUS! CHOP
ALWAYS WANT
TO BE TAXI
DLIVER!



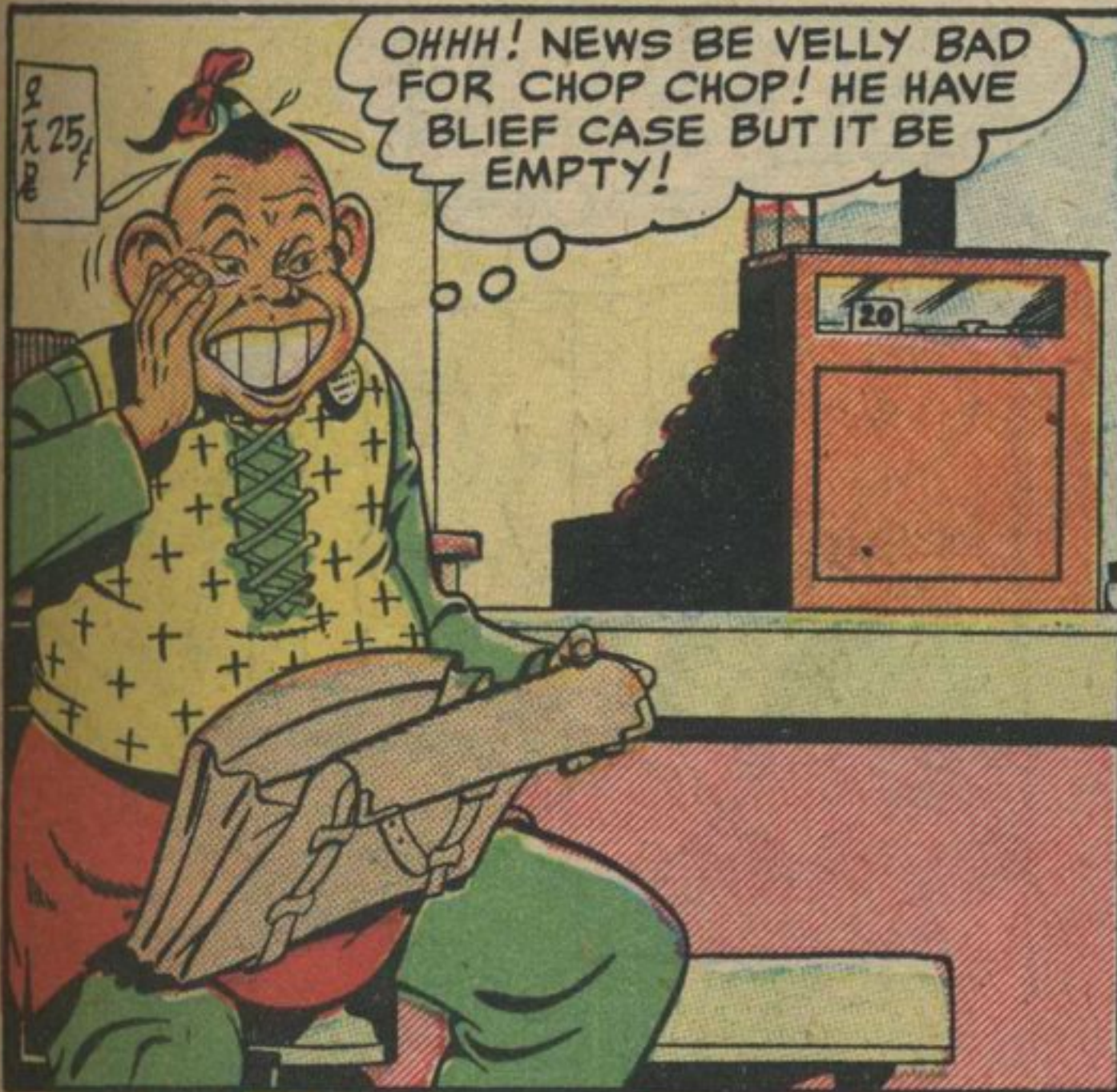
ME THINK ME STOP HERE FOR MINUTE AND HAVE QUICK CUP TEA!



FIRST MUST SEE IF EVERYTHING ALL LIGHT WITH TAXI! SOMEONE IN BIG HULLY LEAVE BLIEF CASE! FIRST ME HAVE TEA... THEN ME TAKE IT TO LOSING AND FINDING DEPARTMENT!



FLASH! A BRIEF CASE CONTAINING TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS IN BONDS AND SECURITIES WAS STOLEN FROM THE SITZ-HARLTON HOTEL TODAY! THE THIEF MADE HIS ESCAPE BY TAXI! POLICE ARE ON THE LOOKOUT...



OH! NEWS BE VELLY BAD FOR CHOP CHOP! HE HAVE BLIEF CASE BUT IT BE EMPTY!



ME CANNOT GIVE BLIEF CASE TO POLICE! MAYBE THEY ASK WHERE BE TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS! MAYBE THEY THINK ME HIDE IT! IS BETTER TO LEAVE IT HERE AND SAY NOTHING!

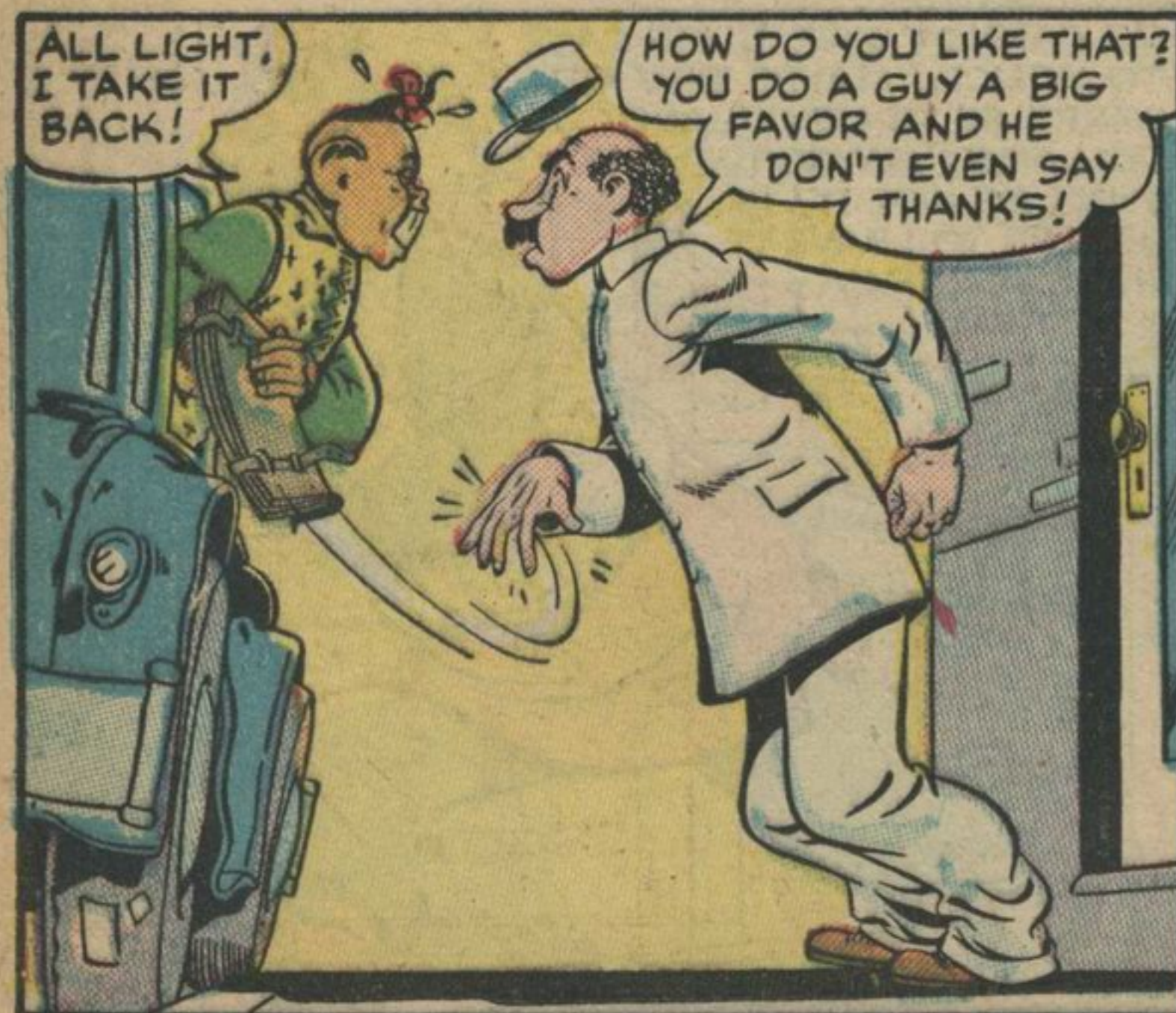


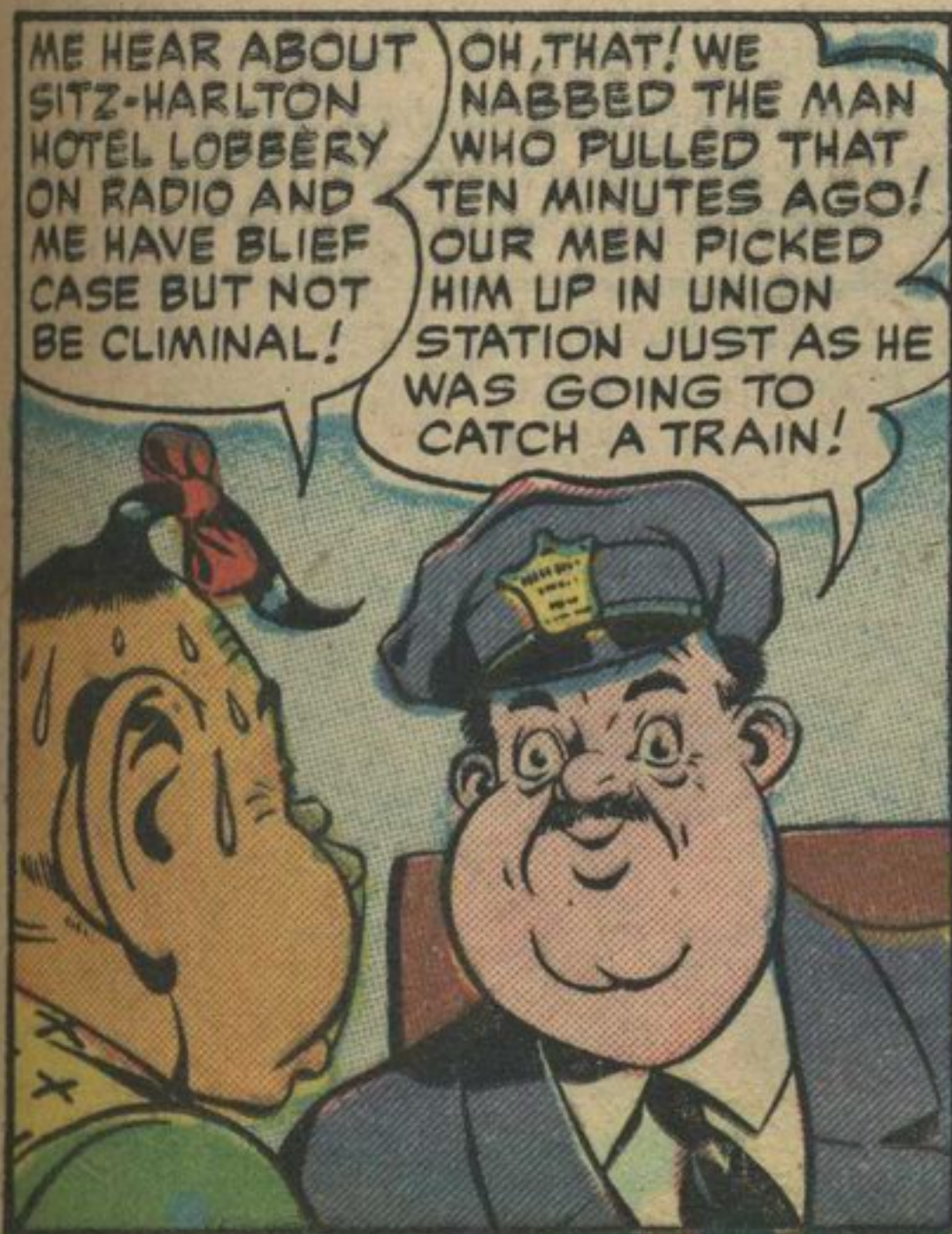
HEY, YOU LEAVE THIS BEHIND! IS VELLY GOOD I SEE THIS IN TIME!

OH, GOLLIES! ME MUST TAKE BLIEF CASE OR WAITER BE VELLY SUSPICIOUS!

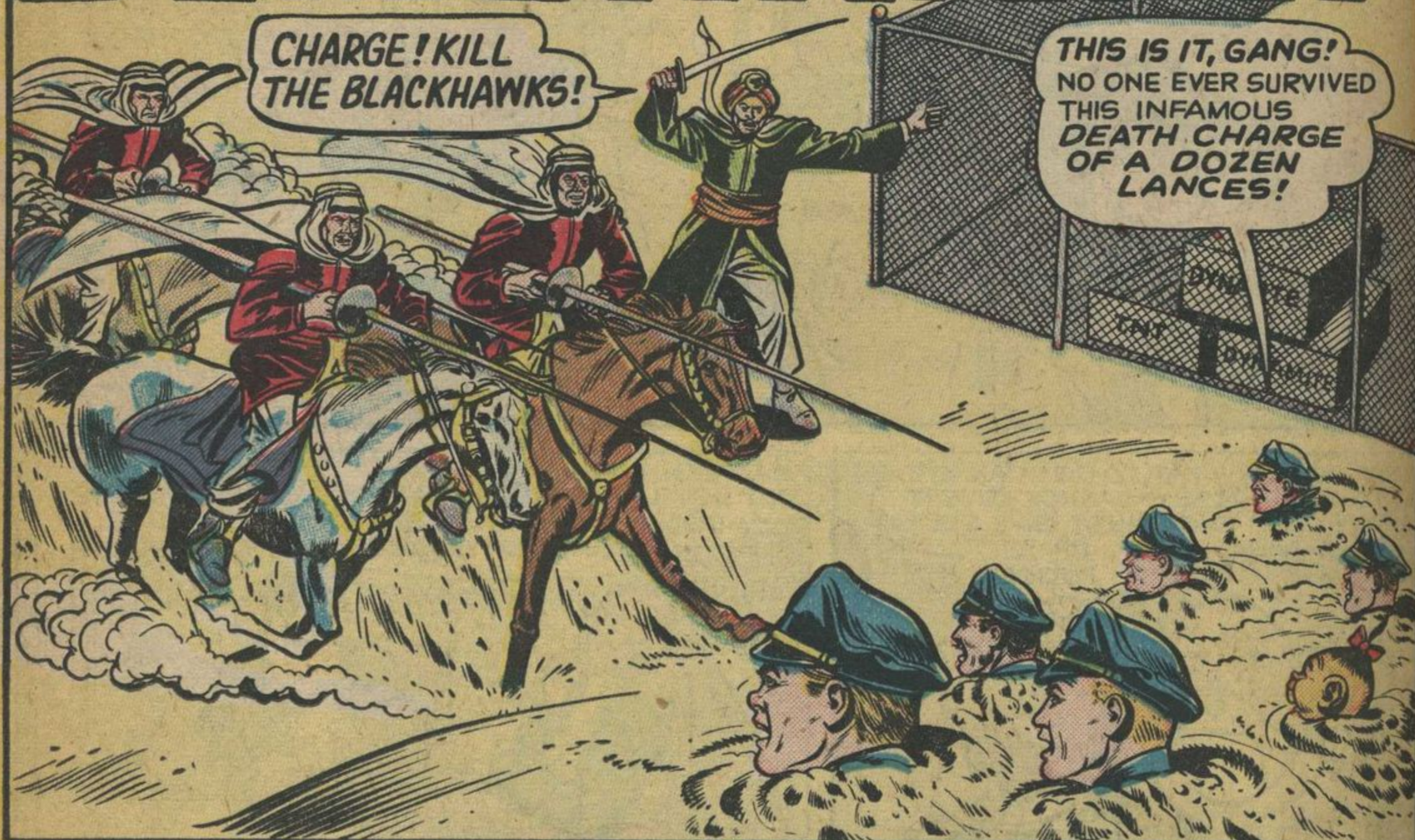


ME MUST LOSE THIS QUICK QUICK! OH, ME CAN THROW IT AWAY AND STILL KEEP CITY CLEAN!





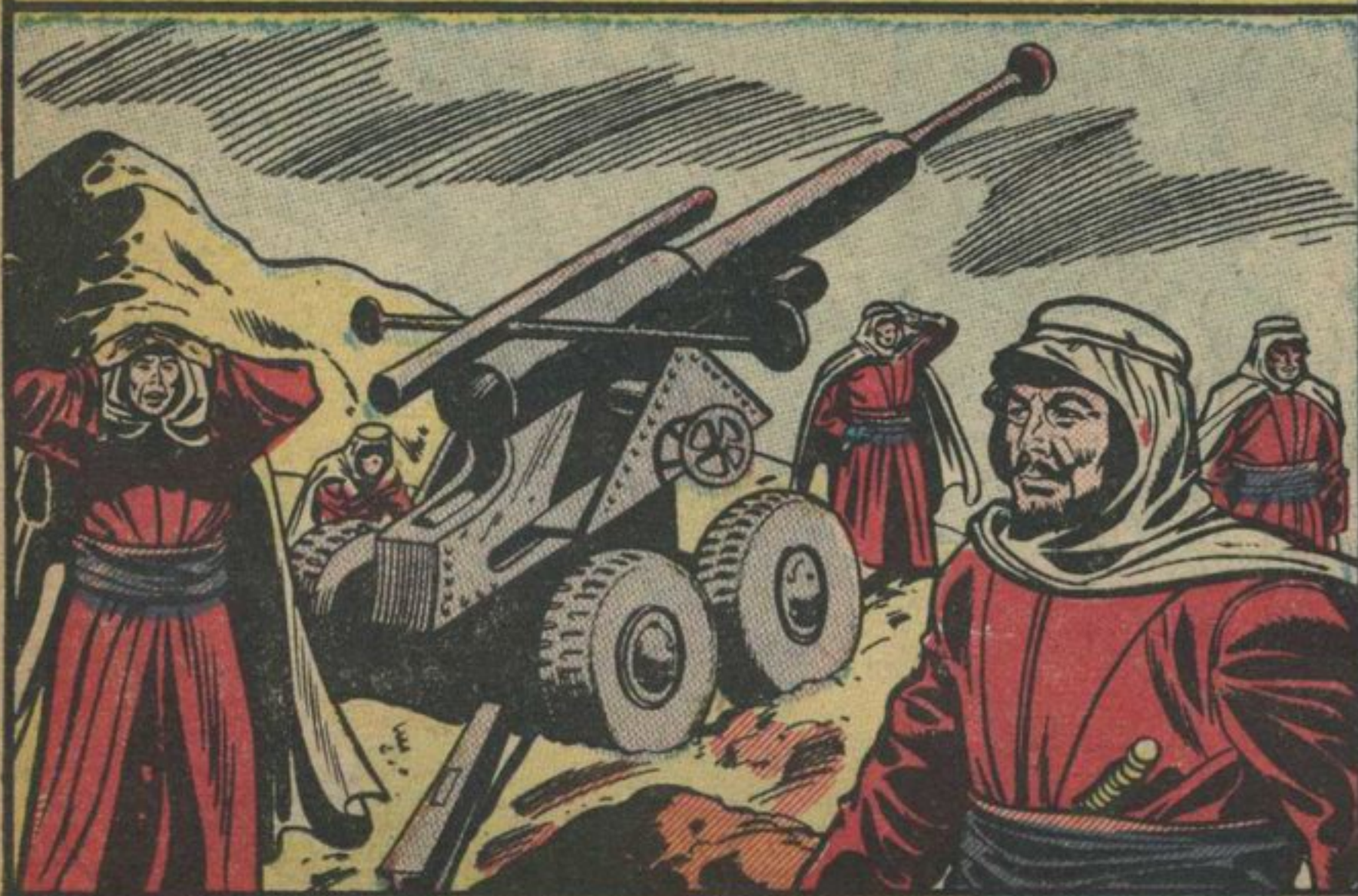
BLACKHAWK



DEATH CHARGED THROUGH THE HOT AFRICAN SUN DOWN UPON THE BLACKHAWKS! AND THIS TIME EVEN THE VALIANT FIGHTERS FOR JUSTICE SEEMED DOOMED TO EXTINCTION -- FOR THE FIERCE DESERT WOLF HAD TAKEN NO CHANCES AS HE DEALT WITH THE HEROS WHO WOULDN'T JOIN ---

THE DEATH LEGION!

BENEATH THE HOT AFRICAN SUN A PARTY OF MEN GATHER ABOUT A STRANGE APPARATUS --- THEIR TRAINED EYES SCAN THE SKY ANXIOUSLY



AND SEVERAL MILES TO THE WEST AS THE FAMED BLACKHAWKS SOAR ON OVER THE BARREN DESERT TO CONTINUE AN INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP TOUR...

HAVE A LITTLE PATIENCE, GANG! ANOTHER FEW HOURS AND WE WILL BE THROTTLING DOWN AT THE CAIRO AIRSTRIP..

OH, WOES! CHOP CHOP FEEL LIKE WET SPONGE BEING SQUEEZED!



BLACKHAWK

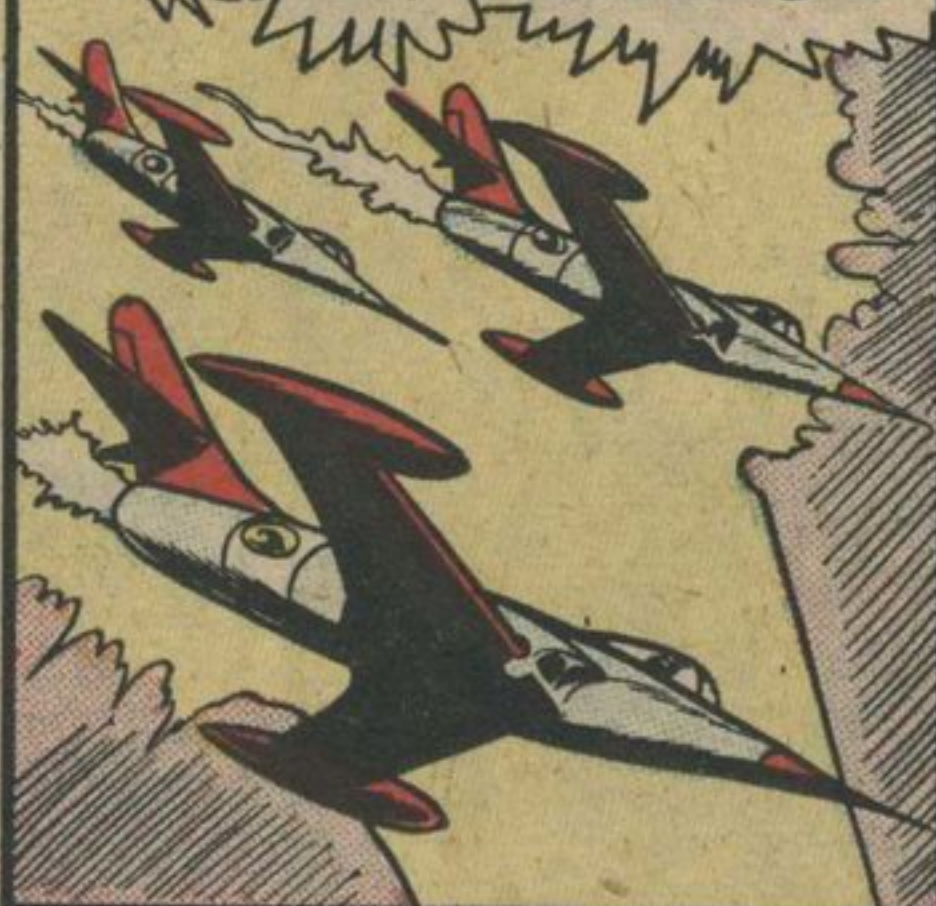
MOMENTS LATER, AS THE SCREAMING JETS NEAR THE STRANGE APPARATUS!

SPEED...
750 MPH...
ALTITUDE...
7000
FEET...

FIRE!



MY ENGINE, PY L-LOOKS LIKE
IT'S YIMINY WE'RE ALL
ON THE TANK CUTTING OUT!
THE MINE SCATTER
FRITZ! IS FOR AN
TOO! EMERGENCY
LANDING--



THE TROUBLED JETS PEEL OFF--
THEN GLIDE POWERLESS TO A
SAFE LANDING ON THE
SANDS BELOW---

WELL, MON
AMI.. WHAT
DO YOU MAKE
OF IT! NEVER
BEFORE HAS
SUCH A THING
HAPPENED!

I KNOW, ANDRE.. IT
DOESN'T FIGURE!
ONE OR TWO OF
US MIGHT HAVE
KONKED OUT AT
THE SAME TIME..
BUT NOT ALL OF
US! LET'S GIVE OUR
ENGINES A CHECK
OVER!



SHORTLY, AS THE PUZZLED BLACKHAWKS
INSPECT THEIR CRAFT---

ZE ENGINE IS
IN PERFECT
CONDITION---
EXCEPT IT
WHEEL NOT
RUN! AND
YOURS, CHUCK?

SAME
STORY!
SOMETHING'S
FISHY
HERE!

LOOKIE! LOOKIE!
OH GOLLIES..
CHOP CHOP
HAVE DESERT
FEVER! SEE
MIRAGE...I THINK!



THAT'S
NO
MIRAGE!

YUST LIKE
A PAGE
OUT OF
HISTORY!

OUI!
ZE
ARABIAN
NIGHTS!

GREAT
THUNDER!
T-THEY'RE
HOSTILE!



SACRE! YOU ARE
RIGHT, BLACKHAWK!
ZEY ARE
ATTACKING!

LOOKS LIKE WE'LL HAVE
TO MAKE A STAND! GRAB
A PARTNER GANG---THERE'S
PLENTY TO GO AROUND!

JA! IF IT ISS A
FIGHT THEY
VANT THEY
HAFF COME
TO DER RIGHT
PEOPLE!

O-OH...
WOBBLY
WOES!



THEN, AS THE HOSTILE CAVALRYMEN THUNDER DOWN UPON THE HELPLESS BLACKHAWKS ...

HERE'S A BLACK EYE TO MATCH YOUR BLACK HEART, OMAR!

I YERK YOU OFF OF DERE AND VE HAFF A LITTLE TALK!



HAH! YOU LIKE DER CONVERSATION?

PLEASE TO ENJOY BRIEF VISIT TO ANCESTORS IN DREAM WORLD!



THE GALLANT BLACKHAWKS BEAT THE ATTACKERS WAVE AFTER WAVE! BUT THE HUMAN SEA AGAINST THEM IS TOO MUCH

ACH, DU LIEBER ..! IT ISS VURST DEN A FOOTBALL MATCH!

L-LOOKS LIKE WE'VE RUN OUT OF GAS, GANG!



AND FINALLY..

YOUR ARABIAN TRAVEL POSTERS DIDN'T TIP US OFF TO THIS KIND OF A RECEPTION! WHAT GIVES?

WE HAVE BEEN ANXIOUSLY BEEN AWAITING YOUR ARRIVAL SINCE THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF YOUR WORLD TOUR, BLACKHAWK! IT WAS RATHER FOOLISH OF YOU TO DISCLOSE THE CHARTED COURSE! BUT COME...OUR LEADER, "DESERT WOLF", WISHES WORDS WITH YOU!



DETAIL #7

REMAIN TO HAUL BACK THE BLACKHAWK JETS! THE NEUTRALIZING WEAPON WILL RETURN WITH US TO FORT LAIR! DEATH LEGION .. FOR-WARD!

HMM .. THAT NEUTRALIZING WEAPON WAS PROBABLY RESPONSIBLE FOR OUR ENGINES CUTTING OUT! I WONDER WHO THIS "DESERT WOLF" IS.. AND WHY HE'S GONE TO ALL THIS TROUBLE CAP- TURING US!



HOURS LATER, THE BLACKHAWKS SPEAK IN HUSHED TONES AS THEY APPROACH THE DISTANT FORTRESS OF THE DEATH LEGION..

SACRE BLEU! THESE DEVILS ARE UP TO MISCHIEF-- LOOK AT ALL ZE WAR SUPPLIES!

VOT CAN IT MEAN?

I'VE GOT A HUNCH WE'RE GO- ING TO FIND OUT SOON, HENDRICKSON!



SOON AFTER..

G-GREAT SCOTT! THAT OFFICER ADDRESSING THOSE TROOPS IS VON BROKTON --THE NOTORIOUS GERMAN PANZER GENERAL WHO WAS BELIEVED DEAD! AND ISN'T THAT COLONEL KROGER BESIDE HIM?

'YOLTING YEEPERS! YOU BAN RIGHT, BLACKHAWK-- KROGER IS STILL WANTED BY DER WORLD COURT! WHAT DO YOU TANK OF IT?



BLACKHAWK

APPARENTLY THIS "DESERT WOLF" CHARACTER HAS CLEVERLY RE-
CRUITED WAR CRIMINALS FOR
THIS DEATH LEGION OF HIS --
RUTHLESS MEN WHO ARE
SKILLED IN THE ART OF WAR!
AND IF MY HUNCH IS RIGHT --
THINGS LOOK REAL BAD FOR
THE FREE WORLD!



THAT EVENING, THE BLACKHAWKS ARE BROUGHT BEFORE
THE MYSTERIOUS "DESERT WOLF"....

AH .. WELCOME TO
THE WOLF'S LAIR,
BLACKHAWKS!

THE **RAT HOLE**, YOU MEAN! I'VE GOT
A PRETTY GOOD IDEA WHAT THIS
LEGION OF YOURS IS UP TO!
I WARN YOU, WOLF -- QUIT
WHILE YOU'RE AHEAD!



THEY TOLD ME
YOU WERE
A SMART ONE,
BLACKHAWK!
VERY WELL...
SINCE YOU
KNOW MY
PLANS IT MIGHT
INTEREST YOU
TO KNOW THAT
YOU AND YOUR
FRIENDS WILL
AID ME IN
**CONQUERING
THE WORLD!**

I FIGURED THAT
WAS WHAT
YOUR SICK
MIND WAS
DWELLING
ON...

HE
ISS
CRAZY!



BUT IT
WON'T
WORK,
WOLF!
WE DON'T
FLY FOR
TYRANTS,
EVEN IF
IT WILL
MEAN
OUR
LIVES!

CHOP
CHOP
VELLY
ANGRY--
WOULD
LIKE
TO
TAKE
AXE
TO
BOSS
MAN!

YOU'LL FLY FOR
ME, BLACKHAWK!
YOU SEE, ASIDE
FROM THE NEED
OF YOUR FLYING
ABILITIES I
NEED YOU FOR
PROPOGANDA
PURPOSES!
THOUSANDS WILL
JOIN ME ONCE
THEY LEARN THE
BLACKHAWKS ARE
ON MY SIDE! NOW
YOU'D ALL BETTER
REST -- WE AT-
TACK AT DAWN!



LATER--

MES AMIS,
ZE WOLF
WAS QUITE
CONFIDENT
WE WOULD
JOIN HIS
LEGION--LOOK
AT ZE COMFORT
HE HAS ARRANG-
ED FOR US!

HUMPH!
HE'S GONNA
BE IN FOR
A RUDE
SHOCK
WHEN
WE RE-
FUSE!

DON'T UNDERRATE
HIM, GANG!
THE WOLF
SEEMED
COCK-SURE
WE'D FLY ON
HIS TEAM--
HE'S GOT
SOMETHING
UP HIS
SLEEVE!



THAT DAWN--

THEY ARE READY-
ING OUR PLANES!
PERHAPS DER
FOOL THINKS WE
DARE NOT DISOBEY
HIS ORDERS,
BLACKHAWK!

I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT...
HOW ON EARTH DOES HE
INTEND TO MAKE US
CARRY THROUGH
WITH THIS!
THERE
MUST BE
SOMETHING!..

AH..
FATE IS
WITH US! YOU
HAVE A
WONDERFUL
BOMBING DAY,
BLACKHAWKS!



I'D BETTER
PLAY ALONG
AND SEE
WHAT HIS
SCHEME IS!

WE'RE ALL
SET, WOLF--
BUT YOU
ONLY HAVE
FIVE PLANES
ON THE FIELD
FOR US! PER-
HAPS YOUR MEN
FORGOT TO ROLL
OUT THE SIXTH
ONE!

THAT WILL NOT BE
NECESSARY, BLACK-
HAWK! YOU SEE,
ONE OF YOU WILL
REMAIN BEHIND AS
HOSTAGE SHOULD
MY ORDERS NOT
BE CARRIED OUT!
I THINK I SHALL
HOLD THE ONE YOU
CALL ANDRE THIS
TIME!



BLACKHAWK

THEN, AS THE HELPLESS BLACKHAWKS TAKE TO THEIR JETS WITHOUT THEIR FLYING FRIEND, ANDRE ---

YOU ARE TO BOMB THE RAIL LINE AT KATUUN AND RETURN HERE AT ONCE! I NEEDN'T WARN YOU WHAT WOULD BECOME OF YOUR FRIEND IF YOU FAIL TO CARRY OUT ORDERS!

HOW CAN I FORGET, YOU SWINE!



HOURS LATER, OVER KATUUN.---

OH, GOLLIES, BLACKHAWK! WE IN TIGHT FIX! NO CAN BOMB RAIL STATION -- NO CAN LET ANDRE DIE AT CRUEL HANDS OF WOLF!

I KNOW, CHOP CHOP! WE HAD TO FLY HERE TO KATUUN TO LET WOLF THINK WE WERE CARRYING THROUGH HIS ORDERS! WE CAN'T STALL AROUND MUCH LONGER.. GOT TO THINK OF SOMETHING FAST! SAY.. THAT SIGN! WHAT WAS IT I READ ABOUT THAT FILM COMPANY...



SWINGING DOWN FOR A CLOSER LOOK BLACKHAWK STRIKES ON A PLAN ...

OF COURSE! I READ SOMETHING ABOUT THE FILM COMPANY BUILDING A GIANT MINIATURE OF KATUUN IN ORDER TO SIMULATE BATTLE SCENES FOR THEIR PICTURE! I THINK IT WAS IN A SPOT NORTH OF TOWN - THAY MAY BE THE ANSWER!

TIME'S RUNNING OUT, BLACKHAWK! WHAT ARE YOUR ORDERS?



BLACKHAWK LEADS HIS COMPANIONS NORTH OF TOWN WHERE THE AREA IS THOROUGHLY SURVEYED! FINALLY ---

THERE'S THE MINIATURE-- DEAD AHEAD! CHOP CHOP! TAKE SOME OF THOSE HAND GRENADES OUT OF THE SUPPLY TIN! HENDRICKSON! FOLLOW UP ON MY TAIL AND BE READY TO SHOOT PHOTOS!

JAH, BLACKHAWK! BUT DIS ISS GREEK TO ME!



THEN AS BLACKHAWK MANEUVERS HIS JET PERILOUSLY LOW OVER THE GIANT MINIATURE TOWN ...

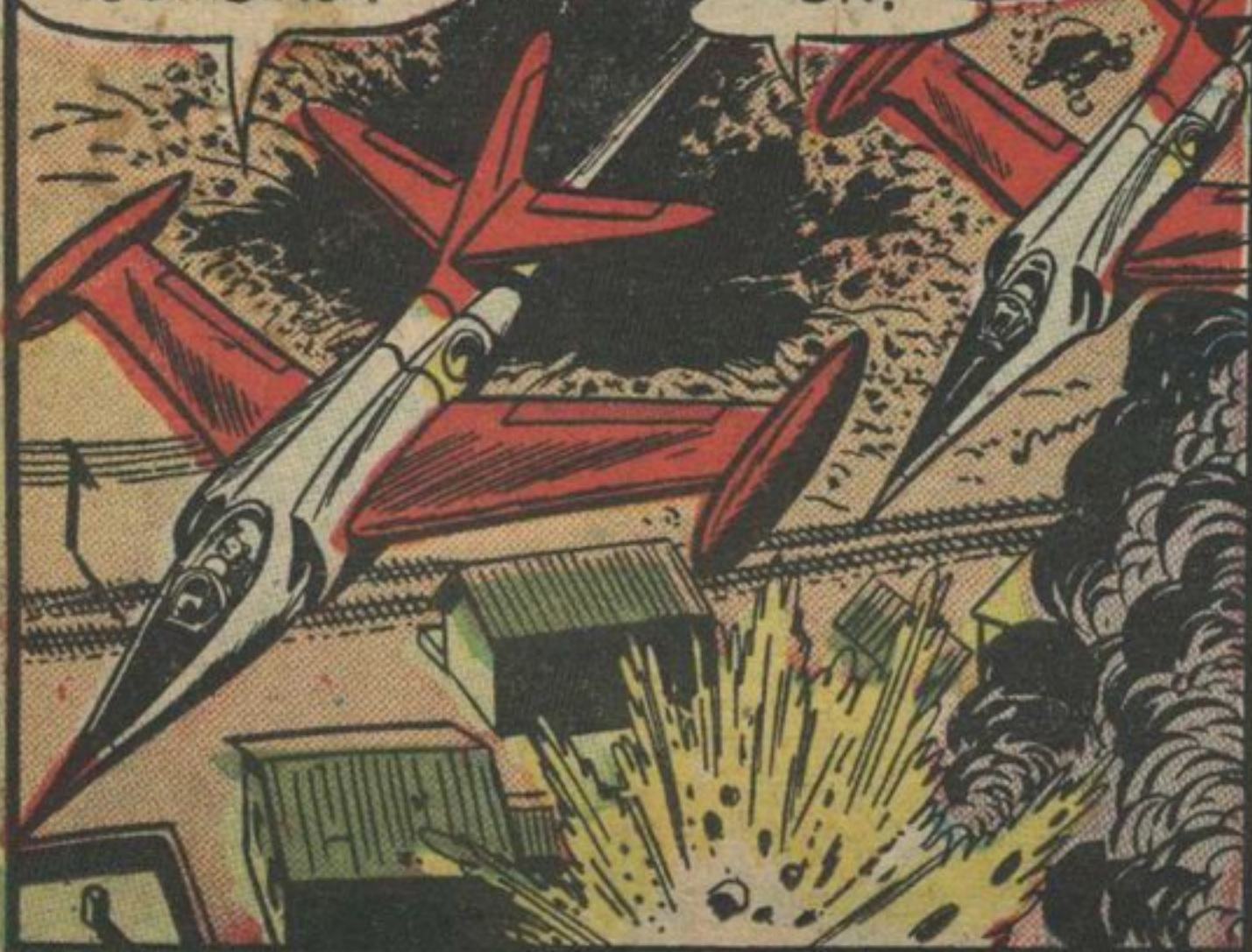
NOW, CHOP CHOP! GRENADES AWAY!

IS CLA-ZY! MAYBE BLACKHAWK SICK IN HEAD!



ALL RIGHT, HENDRICKSON! PHOTOGRAPH THAT "BOMBING"!

AH, ZO...I UNDERSTAND NOW, BLACKHAWK! LET US HOPE DER WOLF DOES NOT CATCH ON!



THAT EVENING, AS "DESERT WOLF" INSPECTS THE PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE DESTRUCTION ---

THERE'S YOUR PROOF, WOLF! WE LEVELED THE TOWN FOR YOU-- NOW WILL YOU RELEASE ANDRE?

YOU ARE WISE, BLACKHAWK! I SHALL SEND A DETAIL OF MEN TO KATUUN TO REPORT ON THE DEVASTATION OF THE BOMBING! YOUR FRIEND ANDRE IS FREE.. FOR THE PRESENT! I WILL NEED YOUR SERVICES AGAIN AT DAWN TOMORROW!



BLACKHAWK

WATER, BACK IN THEIR CELL...

THEN..WOLF
FELL FOR
ZE FAKE
PICTURES!
HA, HA..

YES BUT HE'LL
DISCOVER WE'VE
TRICKED HIM LATE
TOMORROW WHEN
HIS DETAIL REPORTS
BACK FROM KATUUN
WITH THE TRUTH!
HM-M.. BUT SIX
OF US CAN
ESCAPE HIM!

BUT
HOW?



WOLF INTENDS SENDING
US OUT ON ANOTHER
MISSION TOMORROW!
BY THE TIME IT RE-
TURNS HE WILL KNOW
OF OUR TRICK! IT
WOULD BE FOOLISH
FOR US ALL TO
SACRIFICE OUR LIVES
USELESSLY-- BUT
THE HOSTAGE
WOULD BE DOOMED!

THEN..THE ONE
THAT IS SELECT-
ED AS HOSTAGE
.. MUST DIE AT
HIS HANDS!
I WILL
REMAIN
BEHIND!

NEIN!
I AM
DER
OLDEST!



THERE'S NO SENSE IN
ARGUING -- WOLF WILL
SELECT THE ONE THAT
IS TO REMAIN AS HE
DID WITH ANDRE! IT
LOOKS LIKE WE'LL
JUST HAVE TO
LEAVE IT UP
TO FATE!



THE FOLLOWING MORNING ON
THE DESERT AIRSTRIP...

I HAVE CHOSEN YOU BLACKHAWK
BECAUSE THE BOMBING OF
GIBRALTAR IS A DIFFICULT
OPERATION FOR YOUR
MEN TO PERFORM! THEY
MIGHT HESITATE TO CARRY
OUT THE ORDER.. IF I
DID NOT HOLD THEIR
LEADER HOSTAGE!

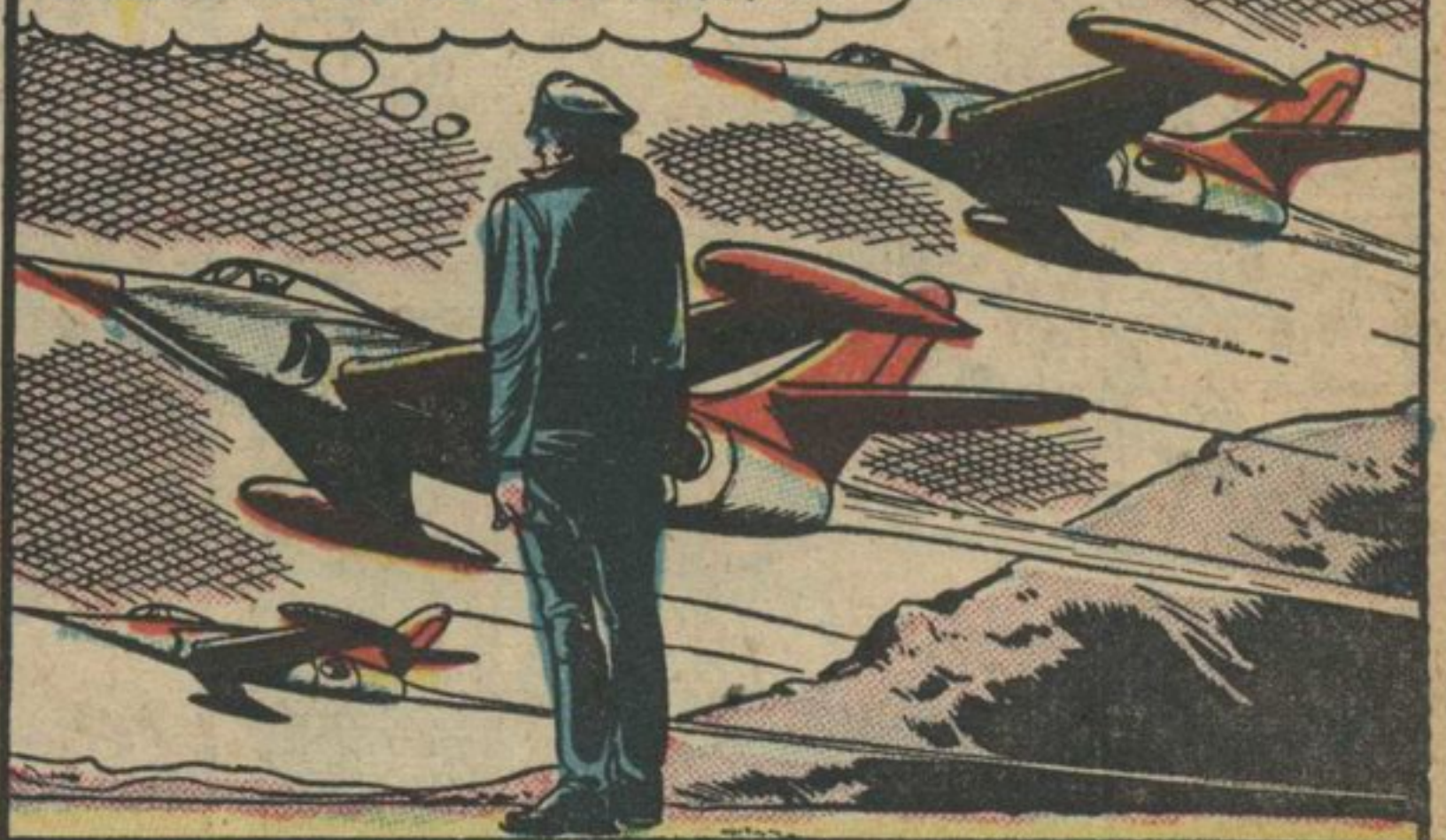
SO LONG,
MEN.. AND
REMEMBER!



G-GOODBYE,
..BLACKHAWK!

AS THE JETS ZOOM SKYWARD TO SAFETY, THE
LONE FIGURE OF BLACKHAWK STANDS AT
RIGID ATTENTION ON THE AIRSTRIP....

SO LONG, GANG! YOU'VE.. BEEN THE
GREATEST BUNCH OF PILOTS A GUY
COULD HOPE TO FLY WITH ...



BUT FIFTY MINUTES LATER, FIVE GLISTENING JETS
RETURN TO THE AIRFIELD WHERE ---

N-WHA..
YOU
DIDN'T..!

NON! WE DID NOT
GO TO GIBRALTAR,
BLACKHAWK! WE
WILL NOT BOMB
OUR FRIENDS--
AND WE WILL NOT
DESERT OUR
LEADER!

JA! IF YE ARE
GOOT ENOUGH
TO FIGHT WITH
YOU -- DEN
YE ARE GOOT
ENOUGH TO
DIE VIT YOU!



YOU BUNCH
OF CRAZY
CHARACTERS..
BUT THANKS,
ANYWAY!

NO ONE DISOBEYS
MY ORDERS! WE
WILL SEE HOW
MUCH COURAGE YOU
BLACKHAWKS HAVE!
GUARDS! PREPARE FOR
"THE DEATH OF A
DOZEN LANCES"!

OH, WOBBLY
WOES...
INFURIATED
WOLF TO
SHOW
TEETH!



BLACKHAWK

SHORTLY, UNDER THE BROILING AFRICAN SUN, SEVEN STAUNCH FIGURES FACE "THE DEATH OF THE DOZEN LANCES".



AND MOMENTS LATER ..

THE COWARDS!
THEY DO NOT
DARE FACE
DEATH!
CHARGE!

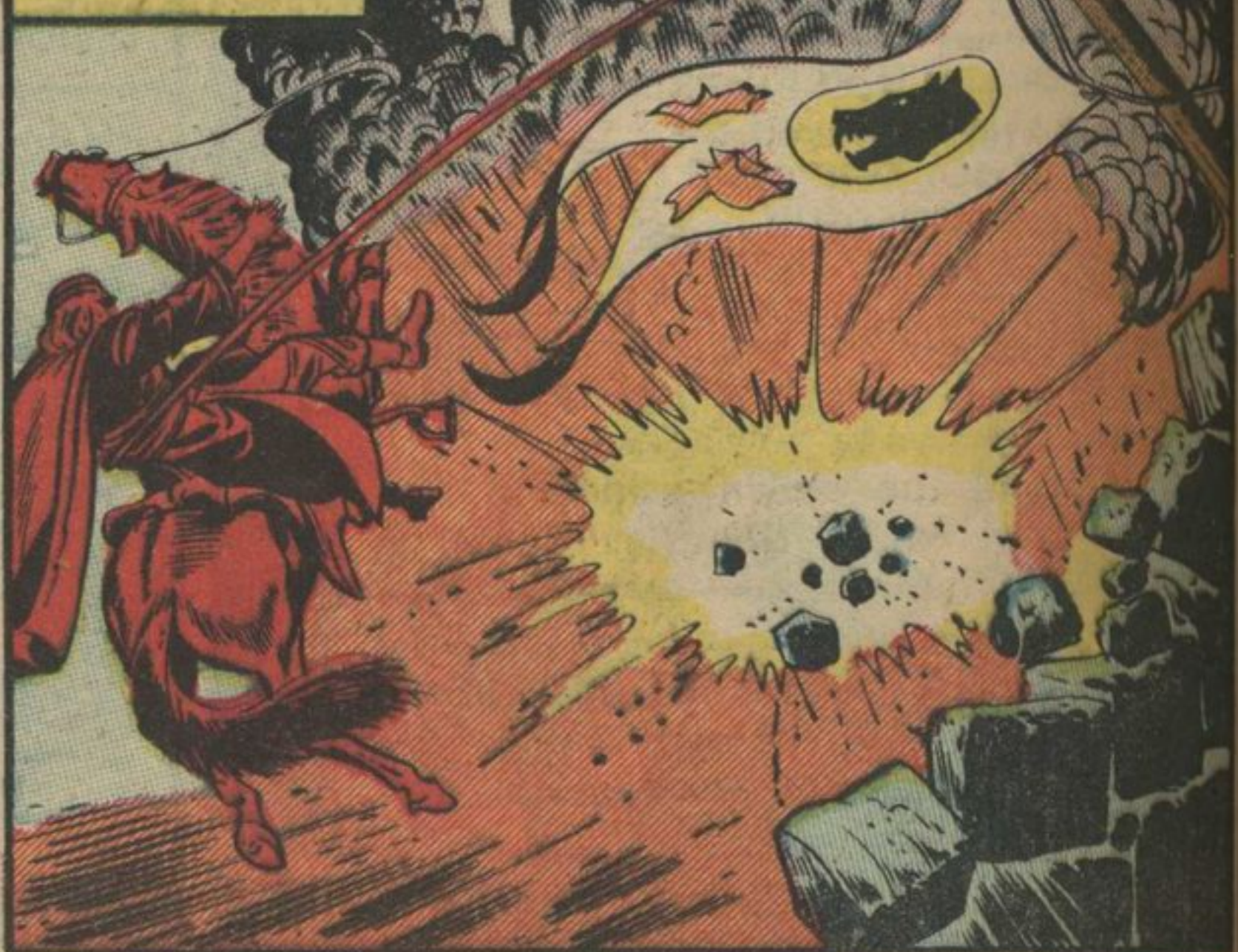
THAT'S IT, MEN! NOW
KEEP THE SUN'S
REFLECTION OFF
OUR CAP INSIGNIAS
AIMED AT THOSE
DYNAMITE FUSES!



AND AS DEATH THUNDERS DOWN UPON THE VALIANT BLACKHAWKS...



SUDDENLY --



GOLLY GEE!
EARTH
CRACKING
OPEN!

IT WORKED! DER REFLECTION
FROM OUR CAP BUTTONS
IGNITED DER DYNAMITE FUSE!



THEN THE BLACKHAWKS PULL THEMSELVES FROM THE PROTECTION OF THEIR SAND TOMBS ...

EVERYTHING'S
GONE --
WIPED OUT,
BLACKHAWK!

YES, CHUCK! THE DESERT WOLF
LIVED BY VIOLENCE -- AND NOW
HE AND HIS LAIR OF EVIL HAVE
VANISHED BY THEIR
OWN VIOLENCE!



Dinner For BLACKHAWK

CAPTAIN DREVITT used to say that if you want a thing well done, you should do it yourself. So he did plenty of things himself, even though he commanded a large horde of picked rascals who lived and grew prosperous by a global policy of loot and piracy. They terrorized the Twentieth Century as pirates like Blackbeard terrorized the Eighteenth Century. They swindled, robbed, destroyed. They faced and fought small parties of brave men, and cleverly avoided battle with big parties. Submarines, airplanes, gas bombs and all the best scientific methods were their weapons. They sought their loot on every continent and in every ocean. They were an accommodating and easily pleased gang of criminals. They would tackle anything, so long as it meant profit.

But lately the Blackhawks had taken an interest in them. And the last three adventures had resulted in unprofitable failure for Captain Drevitt's modern pirate gang. A counter-attack had driven them away from the very doors of the International Bank in the seaside town of Costa Rubia. The attempt to kidnap and hold for ransom the crown prince of Kartusk had been defeated by the Blackhawk planes, and those who had escaped were lucky to be alive. And when an unscrupulous political adventurer bribed Drevitt to destroy the Central American vehicular tunnel, the Blackhawks had learned of it in advance and spoiled that little triumph too.

Therefore, said Captain Drevitt, the Blackhawks must be removed. And he proposed to start at the top, with their leader, Blackhawk himself.

Disguised in white wig, spectacles and costly tweeds, Drevitt pretended to be an amiable old scholar and admirer of Blackhawk. He introduced himself when they met at a state reception in an inland city, and Blackhawk was modest but friendly as Drevitt chattered about his admiration for the great fighting team for world safety and justice.

"Blackhawk," he said, "I dare not hope that you'd honor me by coming to dinner at my apartment tonight."

"Why, I'd be charmed, sir," said Blackhawk cordially. "Who else will be present?"

"Just the two of us, Sir. That way, I can hear more freely some of your thrilling adventures."

"I'll come, professor, but please don't depend

on me for anything entertaining," said Blackhawk, and they parted. Drevitt hurried away to his slum headquarters where a group of his most desperate killers waited. They wore the red jackets and low-pulled hats of Drevitt's company, and eagerly they listened to their captain's orders.

"I want you in the back room, ready for my signal gong," said Drevitt. "No foolish, clumsy stuff about poison or guns for Blackhawk. But I've arranged for him to come alone, and he'll never return. Once he's gone, his bunch of bullies can be easily dealt with."

At Drevitt's apartment, Blackhawk appeared and the two sat down to a pleasant repast. Despite his modest disclaimer of being entertaining, Blackhawk talked well—so well that it was with a sigh of regret that Drevitt picked up the little silver hammer on the table and struck the gong.

At once three doors opened on three sides of the room. Through them loomed huge, red-jacketed, slouch-hatted figures.

"Who are these strangers?" asked Blackhawk, sitting up straight in his chair.

"They're strangers to you, but friends to me," said Drevitt.

"What do you mean, sir?"

Drevitt grinned. He had taken off his wig and spectacles. "You're my prisoner, Blackhawk."

"I'm afraid not," said Blackhawk calmly. "It's the other way around. Grab him, men."

The big fellows entered. Dropping jackets and hats, they appeared in Blackhawk uniform. Drevitt rose and grabbed for a weapon, but Andre on one side, Chuck on the other, subdued him.

"The only trouble," said Blackhawk, "was to get you to do something to confirm my suspicion that you were Drevitt. My friends saw your red jackets heading here, followed and overpowered them and took their places. But not until the moment you thought you had trapped me did you give yourself away."

Drevitt, raging, tried to think of some insult to hurl at his successful enemy. But he could think of nothing. Nothing would do any good, anyway.

"Turn him over to the authorities," said Blackhawk. "His rule of riot and plunder is at an end."

BLACKHAWK

FROM OUT OF THE VERY CORE OF THE EARTH ITSELF CAME THE TERRIFYING, GROTESQUE "INNER PEOPLE"! AND THE NEWS OF THEIR SHOCKING BREAK-THROUGH INTO MODERN CIVILIZATION ECHOED AND RE-ECHOED AROUND A FRIGHTENED WORLD! COULD EVEN THE FAMED BLACKHAWKS HOLD OFF THE PLANET'S GREATEST THREAT... OR WOULD ALL THE WORLD FALL BEFORE THE FIENDISH WEAPONS WIELDED BY THOSE BEHIND...

THE INVASION FROM WITHIN



C'MON GANG! WE'VE GOT TO BRING ONE OF THESE CREATURES BACK TO WASHINGTON... **ALIVE!**

OUI, BLACKHAWK!

IT'S A GOOD THING WE HAVE THESE FIREPROOF SUITS ON OVER OUR UNIFORMS!

DEEP IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC, THE FAMED BLACKHAWKS ARE SPECIAL OBSERVERS OF OUR NATION'S LATEST AND MOST POWERFUL ATOMIC TEST...

SEVEN MINUTES TO ZERO, BLACKHAWK! OUR MAIN OBJECTIVE THIS TIME IS TO DISCOVER HOW GOOD OUR PROTECTIVE MEASURES AGAINST ATOMIC HEAT AND RADIATION ARE!

I SEE, GENERAL CONDOR! LET'S HOPE DEFENSIVE MEASURES CAN CATCH UP WITH THE FEARFUL POWERS MODERN SCIENCE CAN UNLEASH!



MINUTES AFTERWARD ABOARD THE CARRIER!

OO-OO! CHOP CHOP VELLY SHAKY IN' KNEE CAPS!

BE CALM, MON AMI! THERE IS NOTHING TO BE NERVOUS ABOUT! THE SUN SHE WEEL JUST EXPLODE IN OUR FACES...THAT EES ALL! **SACRE BLEU!**

GET READY, GANG!

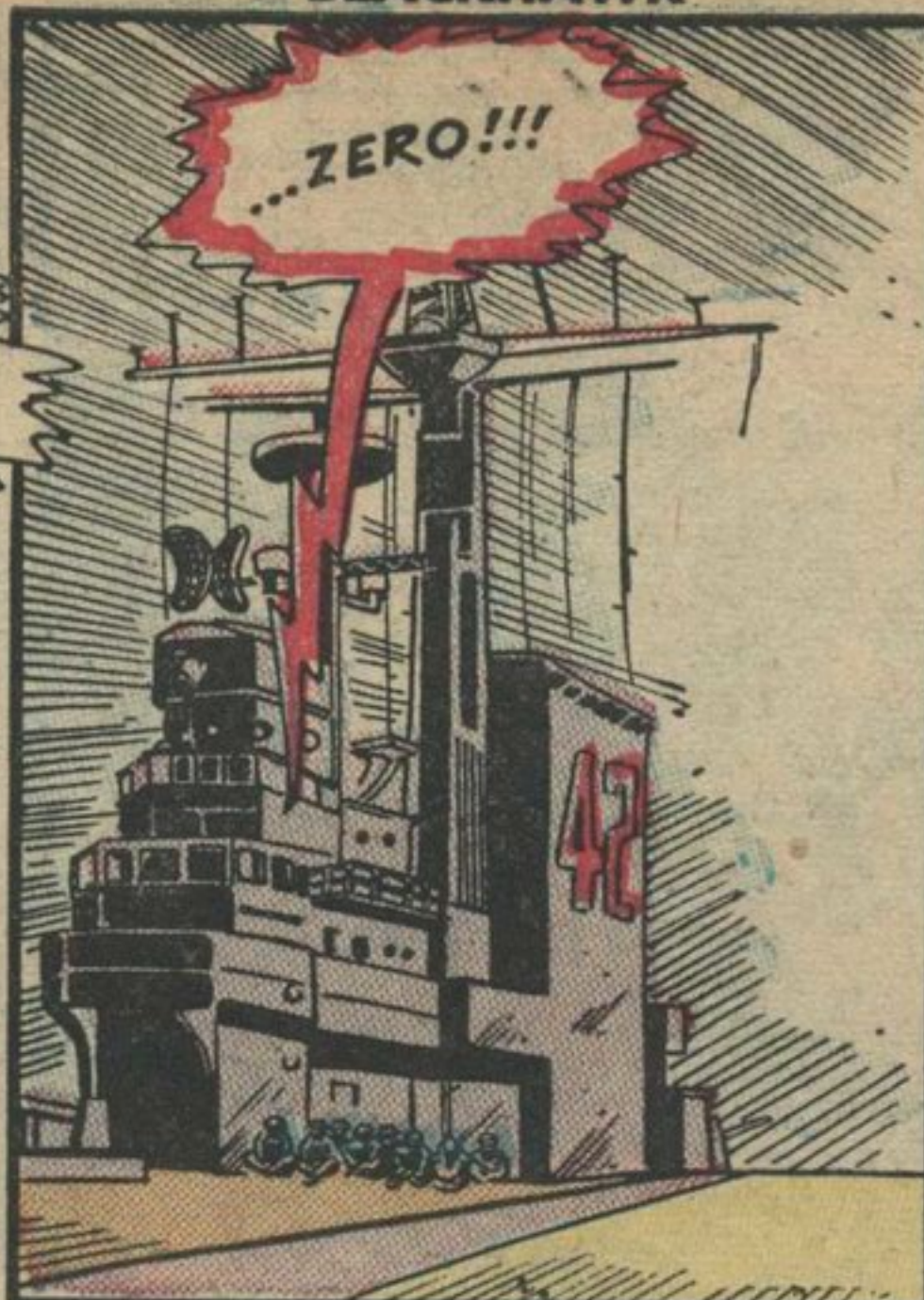


BLACKHAWK

ACH! SUCH NERVOUSNESS I HAVE NOT KNOWN BEFORE, OLAF!

YAH, HENDRICKSON! I BAN HAPPY WHEN THIS IS OVER!

...SIX...
FIVE...
FOUR...TWO
...ONE...



ABRUPTLY, THE BLACKHAWKS SPIN ABOUT WHEN THE INITIAL BRILLIANCE OF THE A-BLAST HAS DIMINISHED...

GREAT ROARING JETS! IT'S...LIKE WATCHING THE END OF THE WORLD!

V-VELLY PRETTY... AND V-VELLY TERRIBLE, TOO!

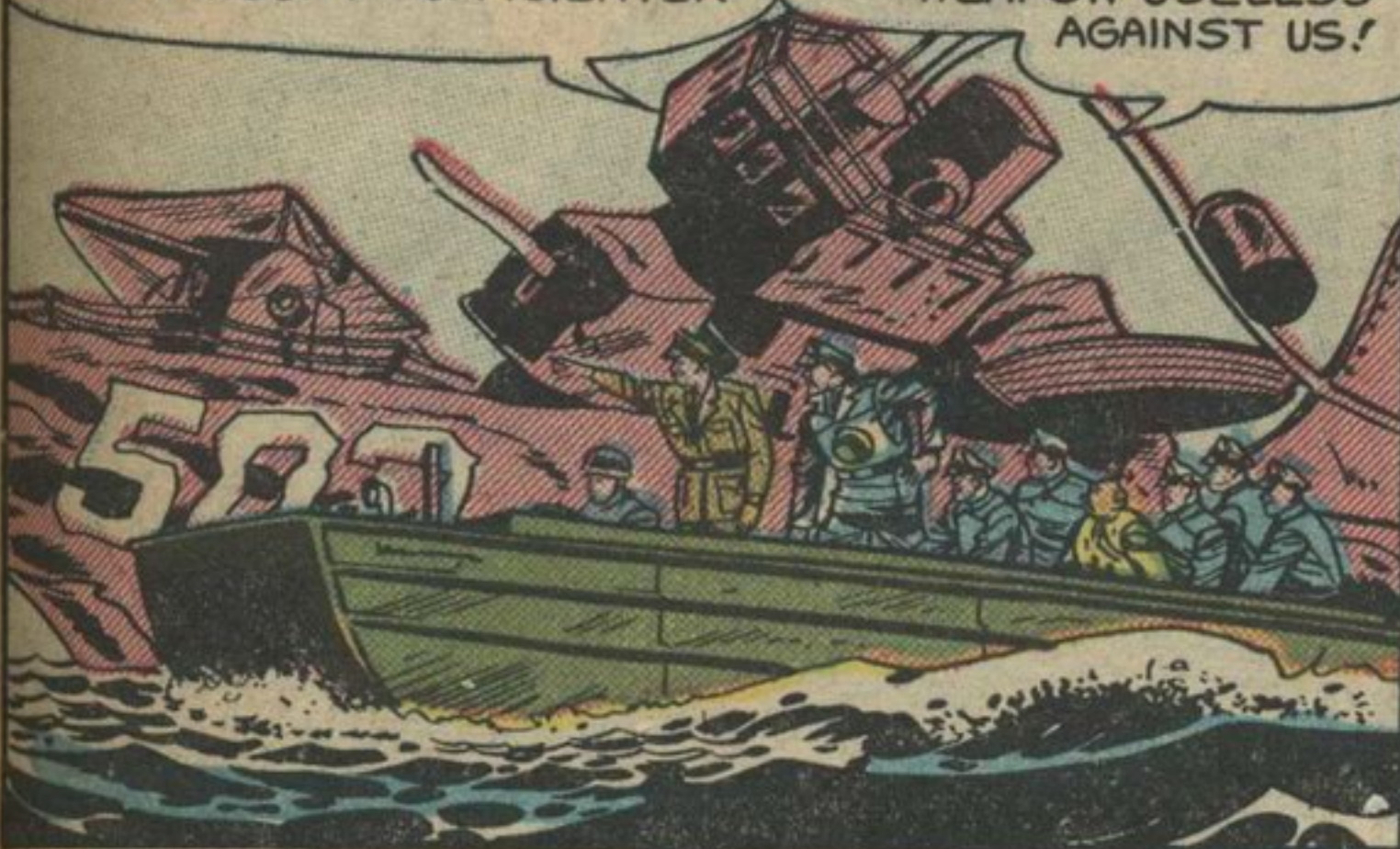


FOR FORTY-EIGHT HOURS THE IMPATIENT SCIENTISTS, TECHNICIANS AND OBSERVERS WAIT ABOARD SHIP. FINALLY, WHEN THE DEADLY RADIATION HAS DECREASED...

SHORTLY, AS THE BLACKHAWKS MOVE IN TO THE RIM OF THE MAMMOTH A-BOMB PIT...

HM-M...SCIENCE SCORED A BULLSEYE THERE, BLACKHAWK! ATOMIC HEAT RAZED THE SHIP...BUT THAT PROTECTIVE TRANSPARENT COVERING PRESERVED THE GUN MOUNT SUFFICIENTLY!

MIGHTY REMARKABLE! LET'S HOPE ONE DAY OUR DEFENSE WILL EQUAL A-BOMB POWER AND RENDER THE WEAPON USELESS AGAINST US!



ACH DU LIEBER! IT ISS LIKE A GIANT METEOR HIT DER EARTH!

YOU AREN'T KIDDING, HENDRICKSON! WOW! WHAT A HOLE!



SUDDENLY THERE IS AN OMINOUS RUMBLE... FISSURES SPLIT THE WALLS OF THE GREAT EARTH CAVITY AND...

G-GREAT HANNAH! AN ERUPTION!...IT MUST BE A DELAYED REACTION FROM THE BLAST!

OH, GOLLIES! ...CHOP CHOP'S FEET DO UN-INTENTIONAL JITTERBUG!

Y-YUMPING YIMINY!



BLACKHAWK! LOOK THERE...EMERGING FROM THOSE CRACKED WALLS!

T-THUNDERING SABRES! STRANGE CREATURES...SPEWING FORTH FROM WITHIN THE EARTH! WE'VE GOT TO WARN THE OTHERS!...THEY MAY BE HOSTILE!



BLACKHAWK

BUT BEFORE THE MEMBERS OF THE A-BOMB EXPEDITION CAN BE ALERTED, BLACKHAWK'S FEAR IS REALIZED...

AHHHHHH!

TOO LATE...BLACKHAWK!
ZEE INHUMAN DEVILS ARE
ATTACKING WITH SOME FIENDISH
FLAME GUN!

HIT 'EM GANG...WE'VE
GOT TO KEEP 'EM
OCCUPIED UNTIL THE
EXPEDITION CAN
EVACUATE THE
AREA!



VELLY SORRY!
NO HOT FEET
FOR CHOP CHOP
TODAY!

WATCH OUT FOR
THEIR TORCH
GUNS...THEY'RE
DEADLIER THAN
A JET TAIL BLAST!

HAWKA-A-A!



AS THE BLACKHAWKS COURAGEOUSLY BATTLE THE
UNDERGROUND INVADERS THEY ARE SUDDENLY
STARTLED BY...

THEY
RETREAT...BUT WHY? WE
ARE OUTNUMBERED!

RIGHT,
STANISLAUS...
IT DOESN'T
FIGURE!

OH, YES
IT DOES
...LOOK!



VOILA! THE NAVY
HAS SHIPPED US AN
ARMORED UNIT
FROM THE FLEET
IN THE HARBOR!

DAS IS GOOT!
DER CREATURES
KNOW ENOUGH
TO BE AFRAID OF
THE ARMY AND
NAVY!

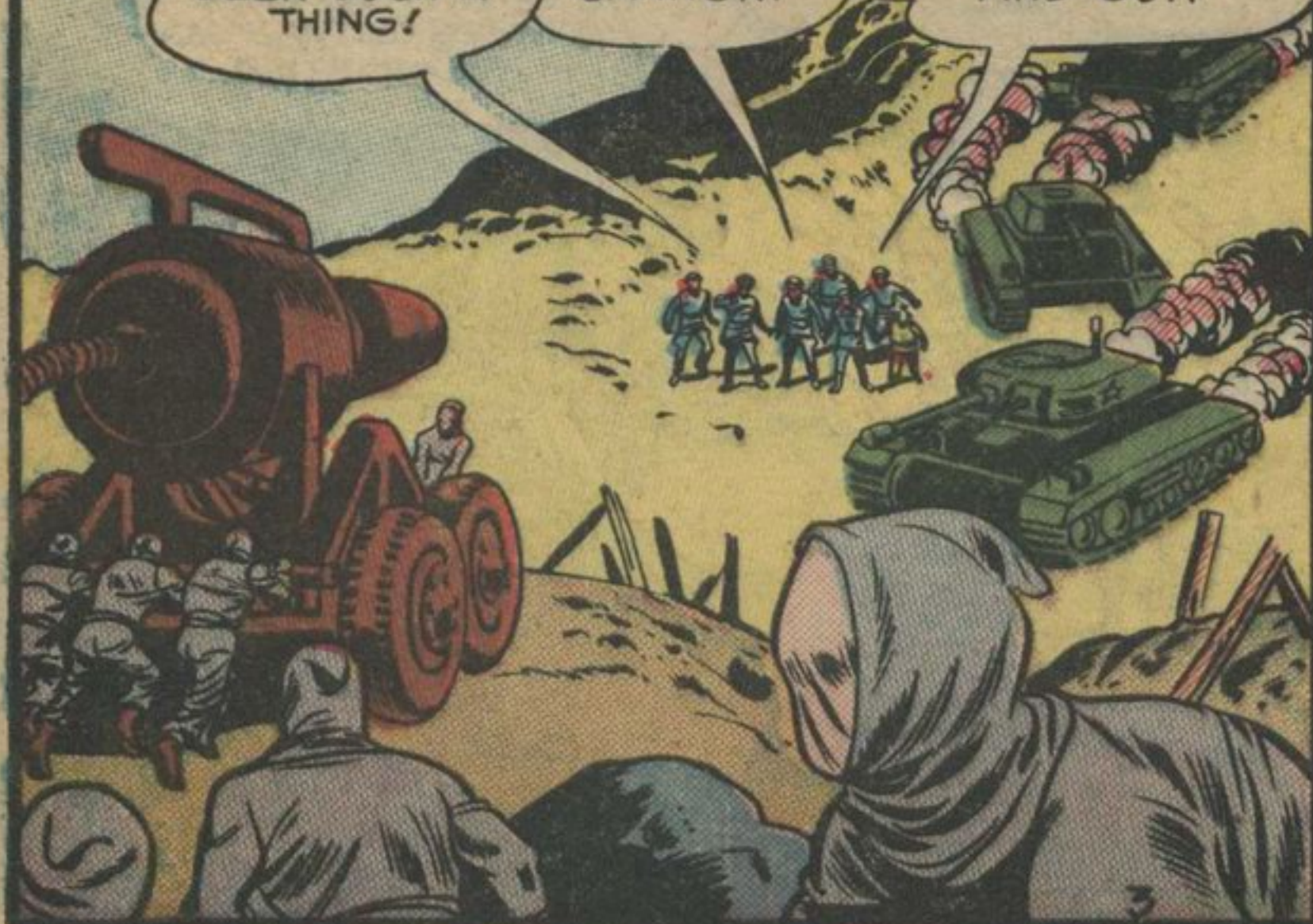
YES
HENDRICKSON!
BUT LOOK
THERE...THOSE
FIENDS ARE
UP TO
SOMETHING!



W-WHAT KIND OF
WEAPON IS THAT?
NEVER HAVE I
SEEN SUCH A
THING!

IT BAN
LOOK LIKE
A BIG
CANNON!

LET'S HITCH A
RIDE ON ONE OF
THESE TANKS AND
FIND OUT!



MOMENTS LATER, AS THE BLACKHAWKS RUMBLE
TOWARD THE ENEMY ATOP THE TANKS...

OH, WOBBLY
WOES! CHOP
CHOP FEEL MUCH
TROUBLE
AHEAD!

STEADY, MEN...
THAT CONTRAPTION
OF THEIRS MIGHT
MEAN TROUBLE!



THEN, AS THE LEAD TANKS CLATTER TO WITHIN THREE HUNDRED YARDS OF THE "INNER PEOPLE"...



YAAAAA!

G-GREAT THUNDER! IT'S A GIANT FLAME THROWER! STOP THE ADVANCE... THAT WILL MAKE HOT BOXES OF OUR TANKS!

UPON BLACKHAWK'S COMMAND, THE TANKS WITHDRAW TO SAFETY WHERE...



THANKS, BLACKHAWK... IF YOU HADN'T GIVEN THAT ORDER WE'D HAVE BEEN ROASTED ALIVE!

THOSE CREATURES ARE CUNNING... CLEVER! I THINK WE'D BETTER RETIRE TO THE CARRIER AND HAVE A COUNCIL OF WAR WITH THE GENERAL!

LATER, ABOARD THE CARRIER...

WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF IT, BLACKHAWK? WHO ARE THESE CREATURES?... WHERE DO THEY COME FROM?

WHO CAN SAY, GENERAL! EVIDENTLY THE A-BOMB HAS BROKEN INTO A NEW WORLD... AN **INNER** WORLD! AND THESE "INNER PEOPLE" SEEMED DETERMINED TO WAR ON US WITH THEIR DEADLY WEAPONS!

WE COULD SHELL THEM... DIVE BOMB THEM... DRIVE THEM BACK INTO THEIR HELL PIT! BUT I DON'T DARE MAKE ANOTHER MOVE UNTIL I CONTACT WASHINGTON!

YOU'RE RIGHT, SIR! BUT IN THE MEANTIME LET'S HOPE THEY DON'T DECIDE TO ATTACK OUR ENTIRE CIVILIZATION!

WITHIN HOURS THE SHOCKING NEWS REACHES THE CIVILIZED WORLD...



INNER PEOPLE RELEASED FROM CORE OF EARTH!

U.S. A-BOMB BREAKS INTO NEW CIVILIZATION!

WILL HOSTILE PEOPLES ATTACK US??

AND AT A SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UNITED WORLD COURT THE RUSSIAN DELEGATE TAKES THE FLOOR...



THE UNITED STATES MUST DISCONTINUE EXPERIMENTATION WITH NUCLEAR BOMBS... THE WORLD IS ENDANGERED! THESE... "INNER PEOPLE" MUST SOMEHOW BE APPEASED... BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE!

MEANWHILE, AS THE BLACKHAWKS KEEP A ROUND- THE-CLOCK VIGIL OVER THE ISLAND...



DONNERWETTER! DIS VAITING IS TERRIBLE, BLACKHAWK! HOW MUCH LONGER MUST IT BE?

THE GENERAL FINISHED HIS CONFERENCE WITH THE PRESIDENT YESTERDAY, HENDRICKSON! HE'LL BE BACK IN A MATTER OF HOURS... THEN WE'LL KNOW WHAT COURSE TO TAKE!

BLACKHAWK

THAT EVENING A FLEET JET ALIGHTS ON THE CARRIER... A GRIM ARMY OFFICER STEPS FROM THE COCKPIT AND...

GLAD TO HAVE YOU BACK, SIR! WHAT ARE OUR ORDERS?

IT'S A TOUGH ASSIGNMENT, BLACKHAWK! LET'S STEP INTO THE BRIEFING ROOM...

THE PRESIDENT AND UNITED WORLD OFFICIALS INSIST WE TAKE A **PRISONER, BLACKHAWK!** THEY HOPE THAT IF THEY CAN COMMUNICATE WITH THE "INNER PEOPLE"... SHOW THEM THAT WE WANT ONLY PEACE... THERE'S A CHANCE OF AVOIDING WAR!

MON AMI! THAT EES NEAR IMPOSSIBLE! WHEN ONE GETS CLOSE TO THEES CREATURES THEY FIRE THEIR TORCH GUNS

I REALIZE THAT... AND I WANT YOU MEN TO REALIZE THIS IS ON A VOLUNTEER BASIS! IT WOULDN'T BE FAIR TO ORDER YOU ALL TO YOUR DEATHS!

WE'LL GET STARTED IMMEDIATELY, SIR! BUT FIRST I THINK WE'D BETTER MAKE SOME PREPARATIONS... THEIR WORLD IS A MIGHTY HOT ONE!



MOMENTS LATER, IN THE CARRIER'S STORAGE BULKHEAD...

SURE, BLACKHAWK... I GUESS I COULD CUT SOME SUITS FROM THAT PROTECTIVE COVERING!

GOOD! I'D LIKE THEM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE! WE DON'T STAND A CHANCE AGAINST THE "INNER PEOPLE" IF WE CAN'T PROTECT OURSELVES FROM THEIR TORCH GUNS!

SHORTLY...

OH, GOLLIES... ME LOOK LIKE GIANT SUPLISE PACKAGE!

MAYBE SO, CHOP CHOP! BUT YOU'LL BE MIGHTY THANKFUL YOU'RE WEARING IT WHEN THOSE CHARACTERS START SHOOTING THEIR FLAMES! STEP IT UP, GANG!



AT DAWN, THE CARRIER DECK IS ALIVE WITH EXCITEMENT AS...

REMEMBER, MEN... THE FATE OF THE WORLD IS IN YOUR HANDS! WE MUST HAVE A PRISONER! GOODBYE... AND GOOD LUCK!

THANK YOU, SIR! AFTER WE BAIL OUT OVER THE A-BOMB CRATER OUR JETS WILL RETURN BY THEMSELVES! WE'LL SET THEM FOR AUTOMATIC CONTROL... YOU CAN GUIDE THEM IN BY RADAR!



AND SO, THE BLACKHAWKS FLY OFF ONCE AGAIN INTO THE YAWNING JAWS OF DANGER... FROM WHICH THERE MAY BE NO RETURN...

FAREWELL, BLACKHAWKS... I CERTAINLY HOPE LADY LUCK'S ON YOUR SIDE! YOU'LL NEED IT **THIS TIME!**



BLACKHAWK

MINUTES AFTERWARD, THE VALIANT BLACKHAWKS BAIL OUT OVER THE DREADED CRATER...



THEN...

LOOKS LIKE OUR BEST BET IS TO SLIP IN THROUGH THIS FISSURE... THEY'LL CERTAINLY BE GUARDING THE MAIN HOLE!

YAH, BLACKHAWK! MITT THOSE FLAME BLASTERS, I BET!



INTO THE FORBIDDEN "INNER WORLD" THE BLACKHAWKS CAUTIOUSLY PROBE THEIR WAY...

GOLLY CHEE! IS LIKE TUNNEL OF HORROR!

IT SEEMS TO LEAD DOWN TOWARD THE VERY CENTER OF THE EARTH!



LOOK OUT! THEY'RE ON US, GANG!



ABRUPTLY, FIERCE CRIES OF BATTLE RING THROUGH THE DIM RECESSES OF THE TORCH-LIT CAVERN...

WATCH OUT FOR THEIR FLAME!

WHAT COULD ACCOUNT FOR THE REMARKABLE CONTROL OF FIRE THEY HAVE? WHERE DOES IT COME FROM?



SUDDENLY...

GREAT HANNAH! THAT'S STRANGE...



HUH? WHAT ARE YOU UP TO, BLACKHAWK?

MY GUESS IS THESE CREATURES ARE FAKES! LET'S SEE!



BLACKHAWK

AND AS BLACKHAWK STEPS BACK...

EEEE! HE BLOW UP LIKE BIG CHINEE NEW YEAR BALLOON!

RIGHT, CHOP CHOP! THEY'VE ALL GOT OXYGEN CONTAINERS STRAPPED TO THEIR BACKS! THEY'RE FRAUDS... THE FIRE THEY FIGHT WITH IS A GIMMICK! I JUST REVERSED THE OXYGEN VALVE TO TURN THE PRESSURE INTO HIS SUIT!

THE BLACKHAWKS QUICKLY TAKE A TRICK FROM THEIR LEADER...

AH, THAT EES ZEE GOOD IDEA! WE WEEL MAKE ZEM **REAL** FREAKS... **BALLOON MEN!**

YAH, ANDRE!

THEN, AS THE REVERSED OXYGEN FILLS THE ENEMY'S AIRTIGHT CLOTHING...

OH-H! CHOP CHOP PLAY VOLLEY BALL WITH SMART GUYS!

THERE'S GOT TO BE SOME SORT OF REASON FOR THIS GIGANTIC FRAUD! HOW COULD THESE CHARACTERS SURVIVE BENEATH AN ATOM BLAST... HM-M-MM!

HENDRICKSON! GIVE ME A BOOST UP THIS WALL! I MAY HAVE THE ANSWER TO THIS WHOLE MESS!

YAH, BLACKHAWK!

WE'VE GOT THE ANSWER, HENDRICKSON! THE TUNNEL'S LINED WITH LEAD! THAT'S WHY THESE CHARACTERS WEREN'T DESTROYED BY RADIATION FROM THE BOMB... THE LEAD WALL PROTECTED THEM!

SO! DAT IS HOW DER TRICKSTERS WORKED! VE TALK TO VUN OF THEM NOW!

THAT IS RIGHT! OUR MASTERS FORCED US TO DIG THE TUNNEL AFTER RECEIVING INFORMATION WHERE THE NEXT TEST ATOM BOMB WAS TO BE EXPLODED!

AND THE OBJECT WAS TO TERRIFY THE FREE WORLD INTO GIVING UP ATOM BOMB EXPERIMENTATION! A SHREWD SCHEME...

BUT BLACKHAWK! HOW DID YOU SUSPECT ZEE FAKE?

BECAUSE, ANDRE, A CREATURE WHO HAD NEVER SEEN OUR CIVILIZATION WOULD HARDLY KNOW ENOUGH TO SURRENDER BY **RAISING HIS HANDS!** IT PROVED THEY HAD KNOWLEDGE OF MODERN WORLD GUN PLAY!

AH, SO!

AND LATER...

WE'LL SEEK FREEDOM'S FOE FROM LAIR TO LAIR. WE'LL MAKE THEM BREAK OR MAKE THEM FAIR... WE'RE BLACKHAWKS!

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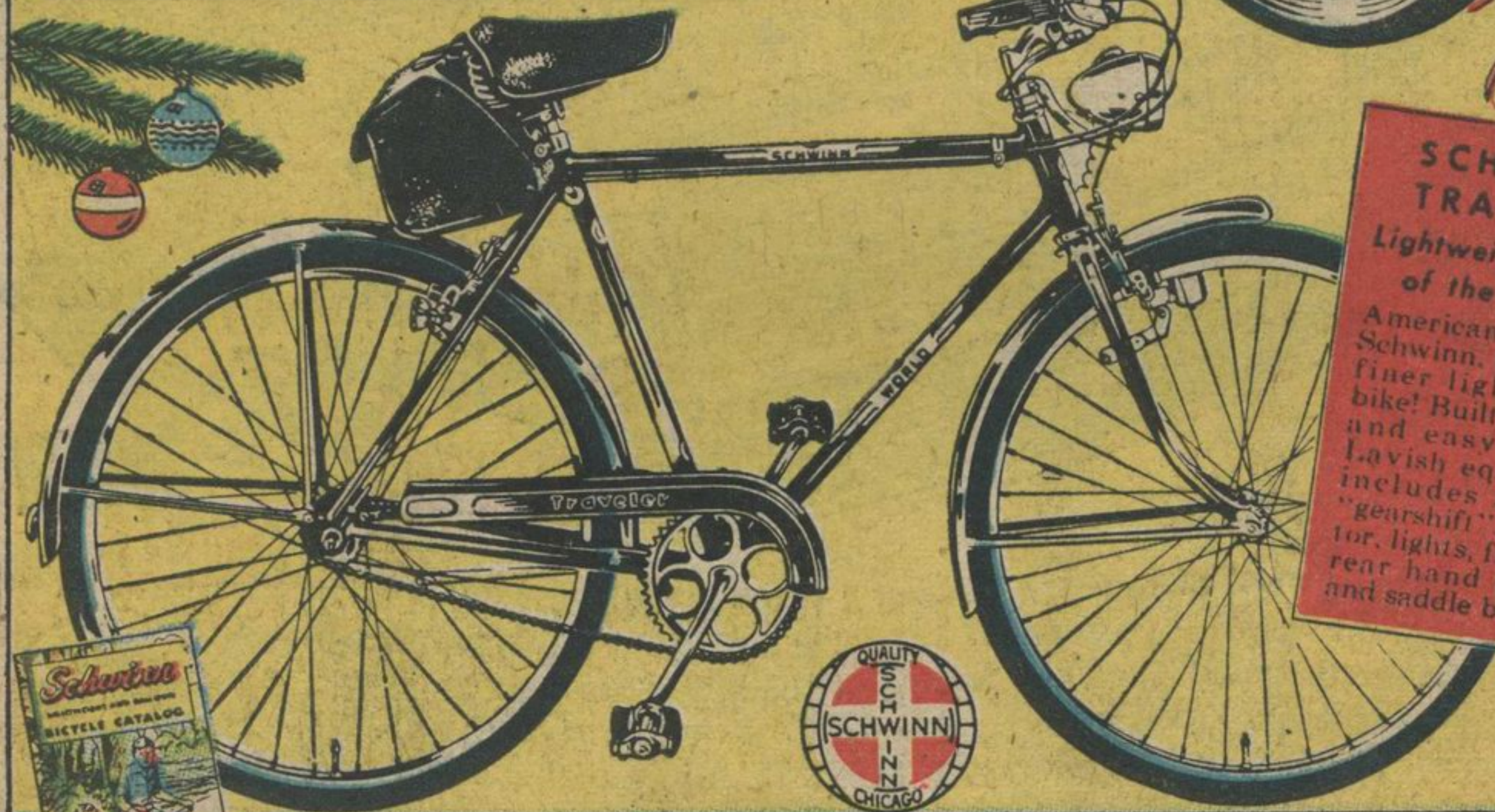
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